

Second round of Algiers talks open

PARIS (R) — The second round of reconciliation talks between factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) opened in Algiers Monday, the Algerian news agency APS monitored here said. The talks, originally due to have started on Saturday, are intended to define a common strategy for the Palestinian movement and restore unity among its main components before a session of the Palestine National Council (parliament-in-exile) in Algiers later this year. The factions are also expected to address the issue of relations between the PLO and the Arab states, especially Syria. The PLO's decision-making Executive Committee has been virtually paralysed since PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's forced departure from northern Lebanon and his controversial meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo last December.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Mitterrand to visit Jordan this year

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand will have wide-ranging talks on Middle East issues with King Hussein during an official visit to Jordan this year, a Jordanian embassy spokesman said Monday. The spokesman said the date for the visit, the first since Mr. Mitterrand assumed the presidency in 1981, had not been fixed. French officials declined to comment, but the Jordanian spokesman said the discussions would include the Gulf war. Both France and Jordan have been firm supporters of Iraq in its conflict with Iran. Paris has also been active in efforts to achieve a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. At the U.N. Security Council in 1982, French officials drafted a joint resolution with Egypt calling for an independent Palestinian state.

Volume 9 Number 2566

AMMAN, TUESDAY MAY 15, 1984, SHABAN 14, 1404

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Regent meets university students

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday met with a group of students from the University of Jordan at the Third Royal Mechanised Division's headquarters. During the meeting Prince Hassan, aided by maps and charts, explained to the students, the situation in the Middle East in general and the situation in the occupied Arab territories in particular. Prince Hassan also briefed them on the Israeli expansionist policy which aims at Judaizing the Arab areas and to evict them of their legal owners.

GDR writers honour Mukbel

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Writer's Federation in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) has awarded the Order of the Golden Pen to the Palestinian journalist Hanna Mukbel, secretary-general of the Arab Journalists' Federation in Cyprus. The order, which is the highest to be awarded to writers and journalists, was conferred to Mr. Mukbel in appreciation for his role in strengthening "the feelings of mutual respect" between Arab and Palestinian journalists on one side and the East German and socialist of socialist countries on the other side. Palestinian officials told the Jordan Times the order was presented during the visit of a top-level delegation of Palestinian journalists to East Germany, at the invitation of the German Writers' Federation.

Arab ministers to meet Saturday

TUNIS (R) — A meeting of Arab foreign ministers called to try to fix a date for a long-delayed Arab summit has been postponed from Tuesday until Saturday, Arab League sources said Monday. The delay was caused by inability of some foreign ministers to come to Tunis on the scheduled date and not by political reasons, the sources said. It was too early to say how many ministers would attend, they added.

Israelis arrest settlers' leader

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli security forces have arrested Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a leader of Jewish settlers in occupied Arab territories, in connection with a probe of an armed, anti-Palestinian terrorist-underground. Police Sunday would say only that Rabbi Levinger, 48, was arrested late Sunday night, but sources close to the investigation said the fiery extremist was suspected of knowledge and approval of several terrorist attacks against Palestinians.

E. Germany to take more Soviet missiles

MOSCOW (R) — Moscow and East Berlin have agreed to station more Soviet missiles on East German territory, the official Soviet news agency TASS said Monday.

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Iraq reports hitting Iranian, Greek ships

Another Kuwaiti tanker damaged in Gulf attack

BAHRAIN (R) — A Kuwaiti tanker was damaged in an air attack in the Gulf Monday, the fourth vessel to be hit in the past two days, the Kuwait News Agency KUNA reported.

It said Abdul Fattah Al Badr, chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company, named the ship as the Bahra and said it was attacked by an unidentified plane.

He said the tanker, which was not carrying any crude, was headed for Kuwait when it was hit in a missile attack.

Mr. Badr told KUNA that the attack caused "huge damage" to the starboard side of the ship, leaving a hole more than five square metres big. Parts of the accommodation section were also damaged in the attack.

The Kuwait report will raise fresh concern among shipowners already weighing the risks of sending vessels close to or through the northern Gulf war zone which Iraq has barred to shipping in its continuing war with Iran.

Earlier Monday three other oil

tankers were reported struck by missiles and Iraq confirmed it had attacked two vessels in the Gulf Sunday night, south of Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal.

Two oil tankers were Monday blazing in the Gulf after Iraq said it had attacked two "large naval targets" Sunday night south of Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal, shipping sources said Monday.

The ships were the Iranian-registered tanker Tabriz, ablaze about 10 miles north of the Saudi-owned tanker Al Ahoud, apparently hit by an Iraqi missile on May 7 and which itself is still ablaze. The Tabriz had taken on oil at Kharg.

The second ship, the Greek-registered Esperanza, was heading north when it was hit south of the Al Ahoud. The vessel was loaded with ballast, apparently head-

ded for Kharg Island to take on oil.

The sources said the Esperanza appeared to be the more badly damaged of the two vessels and might have to be abandoned. There was no immediate word on casualties among the crew or what part of the ship was hit.

They said the Tabriz did not appear to be severely damaged and its crew was apparently safe. The tanker would continue to the small Iranian loading terminal of Lavan Island, they said.

Another tanker, the Kuwaiti-owned Umm Casbah, was hit early Sunday well south of Kharg Island in what appeared to be a separate incident from the one mentioned in Monday's Iraqi communique. The Umm Casbah, which is not on fire, was said Monday to have anchored off Bahrain. The shipping sources said the ship may have been hit by more than one projectile and it was unclear whether they had exploded.

Another Saudi-owned vessel, the Supertanker Safina Al Arab, was set on fire by a missile attack on April 25.

Israelis begin delivery of renewed IDs

By Affiah A. Kaloti
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Israeli occupation authorities have started delivering renewed identity cards for West Bank and Gaza Strip residents working abroad who hold temporary exit permits, according to West Bank inhabitants.

The Israelis earlier issued an order to Palestinians holding the temporary exit permits to return to the occupied territories by July 31 for renewing their permits or else lose their rights to return.

The temporary permits were issued by the Israeli authorities to those who worked or studied abroad and had to go back home to renew their identity cards but did not have the time to wait and renew the cards. Minister of Occupied Territories Shavit Mahmoud told the Jordan Times last week.

Mr. Mahmoud said that about 1,500 Palestinians hold these

temporary exit permits and that they are expected to go back home before the July 31 deadline.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has also called on Palestinian residents in the Gulf region who hold such temporary permits to return to the West Bank and Gaza before the deadline at the risk of losing their jobs, according to a report by the Associated Press.

Contrary to earlier reports, the Jordan Times learned Monday that temporary permit-holders do not have to stay in the occupied territories for 40 days to get their identity cards renewed.

A West Bank inhabitant, who visited the West Bank recently, told the Jordan Times that she obtained her renewed identity card on the same day of her arrival there. However, the woman explained that she obtained her card so quickly because she had applied for it several months ago. "It all depends on when did you

apply," she said.

Another Palestinian received a message from her relatives living in the West Bank saying that her card is ready and she could go and collect it.

News reports said it had been thought previously that the new measures would apply to all exit permit holders but later it was understood that the Israeli decision applied only to the holders of temporary permits who would be issued normal exit permits.

Palestinians living under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza hold Israeli identity cards and need permission from the occupation authorities before they are allowed out or back into the occupied territories.

People leaving the country obtain an exit permit to be kept with them until their return, leaving their cards with the Israeli authorities upon departure, and receive the original cards upon return to the occupied territories.

Beirut shelling kills one, injures 26

BEIRUT (R) — Shells hitting mainly Christian east Beirut Monday killed a schoolboy and wounded 26 people, hospital and radio reports said.

Right-wing Falangist radio said a shell exploded in a school playground and an official at a nearby hospital told Reuters a 12-year-old boy was killed and 20 pupils wounded.

The radio said six more civilians were wounded by more shelling on the predominantly Christian side of Beirut's southern suburbs.

The bombardment brought an immediate reprisal threat from the mostly Christian front "Lebanese Forces" militia.

"The blood of children will not be split in vain. It is not logical that the murderers go unpunished," Fady Frem, commander of the "Lebanese Forces," told Falangist radio.

"If there are plans to undermine security in our sectors, we warn those responsible against continuing, because security will be affected in all regions alike."

In the past two months, rightist gunmen have frequently fired on the predominantly Muslim western Beirut, claiming they were doing so in retaliation, and have sometimes caused heavy civilian casualties.

However, by late afternoon the rightist gunmen had not returned fire.

But schools in both sectors of the capital sent children home for fear the fighting would spread.

The shelling again emphasised the failure of Prime Minister Rashid Karami's two-week-old "national unity" cabinet grouping factional leaders from all sides to halt the killing in Beirut.

About 50 people have been killed and 200 wounded, most of them civilians, in bombardments of the capital since the cabinet was appointed.

On the political front, Mr. Karami announced that a four-man ministerial committee agreed Monday on a draft statement setting out his government's programme.

New Lebanese defence minister to restructure army, page 2.

Jordanian leaders brief Christian clergymen on occupied territories

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday received the archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church in Cyprus, Kyrios Chrysostomos, Patriarch of Jerusalem Theodoros I, and a delegation accompanying the two religious leaders currently on a visit to Jordan.

His Highness Prince Mohammad, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, also received the Greek Orthodox leader and the delegation.

Earlier in the day Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat received the Christian leaders and reviewed with them the conditions prevailing in the occupied Arab territories and the suffering of the Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation.

Conditions of the religious and charitable institutions in the occupied territories in general and the conditions in Jerusalem in particular were also reviewed during the prime minister's talks with the visiting delegation.

Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament received the Greek Orthodox leader, the Jerusalem patriarch and the delegation and discussed with them the conditions of Islamic and



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday confers with the archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church in Cyprus, Kyrios Chrysostomos and the patriarch of Jerusalem, Theodoros I (Petra photo)

Christian holy places under the Israeli occupation and the measures which should be taken by both Muslim and Christian worlds to defend these holy places.

Speakers of the two houses confirmed that the lack of stability in the area is attributable to the intransigent Israeli policy.

Committee reviews JPMC, JFI plans

AMMAN (Petra) — General conditions of the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC) and the Jordan Fertilisers Industries Company (JFI), their future plans and strategy for foreign marketing were reviewed Monday during a meeting of the Ministerial Development Committee.

Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, who presided over the meeting, stressed the need for up-

grading production capacity and reducing operation costs in order to support the competitive position of the two companies in their traditional markets and to enable them to open new sales outlets. Mr. 'Obeidat also called for supporting the co-ordination committee, which groups officials from both companies, in its efforts in marketing and exchange of technical expertise.

The prime minister urged on all

concerned officials to increase the volume of exports transported by land, sea and railway and to stick to the dates of their contracts.

The meeting adopted a number of decisions pertaining to relations between the JPMC and the JFI, and Aqaba Port in terms of fees and storage, in addition to some decisions related to land transport and facilitating and co-ordinating work, production and marketing of the two companies' products.

107 hurt in Athens explosion

ATHENS (Agencies) — An explosion tore through a nine-storey office building Monday, sending shards of glass and metal flying through the streets. Police said at least 107 people were injured.

The minister of public order, Yiannis Skoularikis, rushed to the site and said the blast was "probably caused by a gas leak." Police initially had said a bomb was the cause, but later said a gas heater might have exploded.

Police said 18 of the injured were being kept in hospitals for treatment, eight of them in serious condition. They said at least 89 others were released after receiving first aid.

Others were trapped on the upper floors of the heavily damaged building, and firefighters used tall cranes and baskets to rescue them.

The explosion shattered the windows of nearby buildings and destroyed cars parked near the building, which is also near Athens' criminal courts.

The building near Omonia Square, which also houses a police accounts department, advertising and travel agencies and several shops, suffered heavy structural

damage. The Greek news agency ANA said the explosion occurred in a basement fast food shop.

Cranes were set up to enable rescue workers to enter the upper stories to look for victims trapped under debris.

Responsibility for a series of bomb attacks here in recent weeks mostly minor, has been claimed by a far-left group calling itself "Revolutionary and Popular Solidarity."

Earlier this year two people were injured when two bombs went off outside the Athens Polytechnic. Responsibility for the blasts was claimed by a group of dissatisfied air force officers.

Uranium recovery is tremendous energy potential for Jordan

By Mustafa M. Salma
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan is blessed with the availability of very sizeable phosphate rock deposits, where as of September 1983, the major phosphate reserves are estimated to be around 1.5 billion tons. These large sizeable reserves contain significant quantities of valuable recoverable impurities such as uranium oxide, vanadium oxide and fluorine and the potential yield of these by-products is a project warranting careful study.

Uranium is a natural, content in phosphate rocks in small concentration of less than 0.01 to 0.02 per cent and varying from deposit to deposit. Although this concentration is relatively small, phosphate deposits in Jordan represent a good uranium source when we consider the continuing increase in the production of phosphate rock and the manufacture of phosphate fertiliser at the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company's (JFI) Aqaba fertiliser complex.

Until recently, the main purpose of these phosphate deposits was in the processing of fertiliser products from phosphoric acid such as mono- and diammonium phosphate fertiliser. Today, because of improved technology, recovering uranium from these deposits is a reality and might be economically feasible.

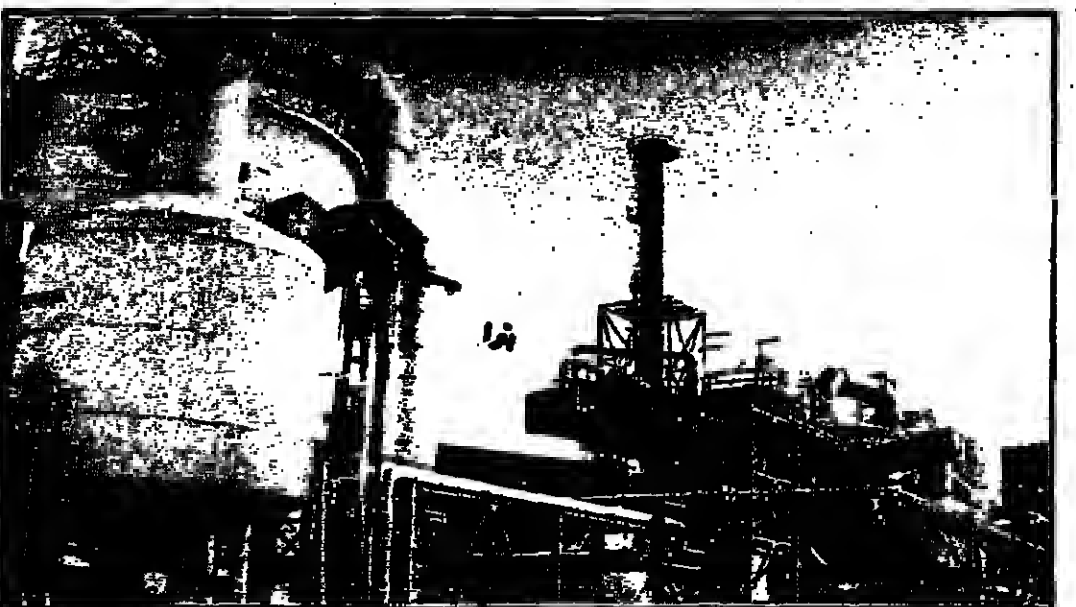
The prerequisite to uranium recovery is a phosphoric acid plant where the rock is digested with sulphuric acid (commonly known as the wet-dihydrate process) to produce, a 27 to 30 per cent P₂O₅ phosphoric acid. In the digestion, or attack reactor the uranium content of the rock as well as other impurities are co-dissolved in the phosphoric acid. This 30 per cent acid stream is the raw material

used for uranium recovery plants.

While the quantity of uranium contained in phosphoric acid is small, it represents a tremendous energy potential. Assuming a 400,000-ton per year P₂O₅ phosphoric acid plant in JFI's which uses phosphate rock containing minimum 32 per cent P₂O₅ and 120 parts per million (PPM) uranium and for which acidulation conditions are such that the phosphoric acid and uranium solubility are equal to 95 per cent, the plant will then consume 1.3 million tons of rock phosphate per year, equivalent to 150 tons per year of uranium which will end up in the phosphoric acid. Ninety-five per cent of this amount equals to 143 tons of uranium oxide (U₃O₈) per year that can be recovered as yellow cake. This quantity represents the annual requirements of a 900-megawatt conventional nuclear PWR power plant which will produce 5.5x10⁹ kilowatt hours (KWH) per year, equivalent to 178,000 barrels of oil.

Thus the energetic value of uranium in phosphoric acid represents 13,750 KWH/ton of P₂O₅ or approximately one hundred times the amount of energy necessary to produce one ton of P₂O₅ (electrical consumption of phosphoric acid is about 125 KWH/ton P₂O₅).

Commercial extraction of uranium oxide from wet phosphoric acid is done at several phosphoric acid plants in the United States. Its technology is proprietary but all processes have certain technology in common, based on the process discovered by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the United States, i.e. Liquid-liquid solvent extraction using organophosphorus compounds such as D1-2-ethyl-hexyl phosphoric



The Jordan Fertiliser Industries Company plant at Aqaba (J.T. filephoto)

acid (D2EHPA), tri-n-octylphosphine oxide (TOPO), germyl phenyl acid phosphate (OPAP), or a combination of these compounds. The key to the solvent extraction process is the change of valence of uranium from the soluble hexavalent U⁶⁺ to the insoluble tetravalent U⁴⁺ state of oxidation. It is this alteration of uranium back and forth between (+4) and (+6) oxidation states which is of importance for its extraction and purification. Another uranium from phosphoric acid route that is at least 50 per cent cheaper than the above current extraction process, has been claimed recently by the Israelis. The technique is based on proprietary ion-exchange resins such as Amberlite IRA-400, where the economy results from

not having to clean up the wet phosphoric acid either before or after the uranium sorption step.

Basic economics

Regardless of the method selected for a planned uranium recovery project, one has to consider some basic economics as well as technical parameters for his decision making. The influence of uranium price by far, has had the most significant effect on the industry. In the early 1980s, the price of uranium was about \$8 to \$10 per pound (lb) which was not favourable. The energy crisis in 1973 provided the stimulus needed to send uranium prices soaring to \$40 to \$45 per lb. This made it attractive for phosphoric acid producers to economically recover uranium from their plants.

From 1973 to 1980, activity in uranium recovery has been intense in the U.S. and around the world. From 1980 to present, due to a large world over capacity, uranium spot prices took a dip from \$43/lb U₃O₈ to \$20/lb U₃O₈ which resulted in the closure of many extraction plants.

The operational overall costs in the U.S. are around \$20 to \$24 per pound of yellow cake (U₃O₈). This compares with higher estimated costs of \$29/lb for a Tunisian project. The depth and duration of the recession in the uranium prices is difficult to forecast due to many factors:

— Uranium international transactions are not free due to governmental policies.

— Except for military use uranium has only one outlet i.e. production of nuclear energy. Therefore, future uranium market prospects are completely linked with the future of nuclear energy.

Storage of uranium is easy and not expensive which explains the stockpiling phenomenon.

Most nuclear power generating companies buy part of their uranium requirements under medium or long-term contracts. Accordingly, the "spot price" represents the price paid for a part of the transactions, while the rest is based on price formulas.

From the above, it is apparent that the future of uranium market is presently obscured. Nonetheless, nuclear power is a must in the long run and better days may be ahead.

As far as the technical parameters are concerned, one should always keep in mind when selecting the process and designing the installation that uranium recovery is, and will remain, a by-product operation so that it should never be permitted to place constraints on, or affect in a deleterious way, or interfere with the normal operation of the phosphoric acid plant.

The world annual uranium requirements from "conventional" type sources for the years 1990 and 2000, excluding recycled uranium and plutonium, are as follows:

1990 : 85,000 - 102,000 metric tonnes of uranium
2000 : 123,000 - 178,000 metric tonnes of uranium.

The cumulative requirements through the rest of the century range from 1.9 - 2.3 metric tons of uranium. While by-product uranium from phosphoric acid can make a significant contribution to the above world supply, perhaps 10,000 metric tons per year by the end of the century, which is likely to be a small percentage of the

annual demands.

Encouraging results

The uranium project in Jordan is currently in the feasibility study. A German firm had completed a pre-feasibility study for the project, encouraging results. However, more investigations are required to determine the actual quantity of uranium that can be recovered. The proposed uranium plant, if economically feasible, will be set up in the late 1980s with an estimated capacity of 100 metric tons per year of yellow cake (U₃O₈) and at an investment cost of approximately \$30 million.

In conclusion, the Jordanian phosphate appears to lend itself to the recovery of uranium and other by-products. Its recovery represents a tremendous energy potential despite the present weak uranium market and uncertainty about the role of nuclear energy, specifically the role of light water reactors (LWR). Nonetheless, there will be an increasing need for the expansion of uranium supply to fuel committed reactors. Enrichment production capacity improvement of existing plants and new capacity, and employment of advanced enrichment technologies, such as laser systems and the gas centrifuge, will influence demand and be influenced by concepts of uranium supply and economics.

By removing uranium from phosphoric acid we are not only achieving energy self-sufficiency, but we are also removing a radio active contaminant from fertilisers. Finally, yellow cake production is only a first step which will hopefully lead further toward the vital development of knowledge in the uranium enrichment technology in Jordan.

Embassy will not be moved U.S. tells Qatar

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan has assured the ruler of Qatar that his administration is opposed to a transfer of the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and will continue to oppose the move, the Qatar News Agency reported Monday.

In a message to Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani, Mr. Reagan described the motion submitted to Congress for the embassy transfer as "unwise" and said it should not have been tabled there in the first place, the agency reported.

It said the message was in reply to one Sheikh Khalifa had previously sent the American President urging utmost efforts to bar such a move which he warned "would result in the most bitter disappointment in the Arab and Islamic Worlds, and could deeply affect their relations with the United States."

The move would also gravely complicate the Middle East peace making process and bar the establishment of the just, comprehensive peace in the region "that the entire world community desires and on which world peace is hinged."

Sheikh Khalifa expressed his confidence that President Reagan "must fully appreciate the extent of the harm" that would result from the American administration changing its declared stand on the Holy City. "Such a move would represent a clear support for the Israeli aggression on the Holy City and on the shrines of Muslims and Christians throughout the world," the gulf state ruler told Mr. Reagan.

Noting that the U.S. does not recognize unilateral measures by Israel in Jerusalem, Sheikh Khalifa also called for efforts to halt "legislative and administrative measures by the Israeli occupation

authorities to change the character of the city."

Israel annexed the eastern part of Jerusalem which it occupied in the 1967 Middle East war into what it now considers its capital.

Aside from the move in Congress, U.S. Democratic Party presidential candidates have also adopted the plan to transfer the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem in their election campaigns.

The declared Washington policy on Jerusalem has been that its final status should be determined in negotiations.

Member states of the 45-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) have ruptured ties with El Salvador and Costa Rica for having effectively moved their Israel embassies to the Holy City.

Officials in a number of Arab countries have said their countries would take the same measure against any country that acted likewise.

Foreign reporters visit Turkish jail

ANKARA (R) — Foreign reporters were Saturday allowed to visit a Turkish military jail for the first time since the 1980 coup as part of an increasingly open government policy on human rights.

Reporters visited heavily guarded Mamak prison, a compound on a mountainside outside Ankara that is ringed with barbed wire entanglements and high watchtowers, and saw political prisoners and alleged smugglers enjoying visits from their mothers.

Soldiers kept a discreet watch as prisoners in blue serge uniforms and cropped hair hugged their mothers, some weeping.

The privilege was allowed in jails as a special concession for Mothers' Day, celebrated in Turkey on Sunday. Prison officers said inmates were not normally allowed to touch their visitors.

Notices inviting the foreign press to visit the jail were delivered to their offices Saturday by the police.

The move followed a series of statements by the government about jail conditions which mark an increasingly open attitude by officials towards allegations of widespread torture and mistreatment in Turkish prisons.

Until a few months after the civilian government was elected late last year, ending military rule, official comment on prisons was almost non-existent and heavy press censorship was imposed on human rights allegations.

Newspapers are still limited in what they can publish but allegations by such groups as Amnesty International are now allowed to in reports about the government's response.

Other examples of the more open official attitude include: — A statement in April admitting that 53 people had died in custody since 1978, including seven in recent hunger strikes.

Amnesty alleges the total figure is around 100.

Unprecedented permission last month for members of the Council of Europe to visit Mamak and Diyarbakir military jail while compiling a report on human rights. They reported finding no evidence of systematic torture.

Several unprompted martial law statements on current prison protests, including hunger strikes.

A swift response, flatly denying the charges, to an Amnesty report last week which alleged thousands of political detainees were still undergoing systematic torture. Ankara said torture was rare and the culprits were always punished.

More than 260 prisoners have been on hunger strike in Istanbul jails since April 11 claiming political status and protesting against alleged torture.

Relatives said mothers of those on hunger strikes or other protests were not being allowed in and some said they had not seen or heard from inmates in one jail for

up to nine months.

Sunday's three-hour visit to Mamak did not afford conclusive proof of either the government or relatives' version.

The prisoners, who included leftists and rightists in the same groups, appeared healthy and well fed. Only snatches of conversation with them was possible.

One man, who said he belonged to an extreme rightist group and was due for release soon, said conditions were good but another charged with belonging to an extreme leftist group, when asked if there was torture, answered: "There is, there is."

Another prisoner who said he was a Communist muttered: "Don't write nice things about this place."

The mother of an accused leftist said: "There was torture but not since the hunger strike." Mamak inmates staged a lengthy fast to protest against alleged torture earlier this year.

Senior prison officers said there were no current protests and all 1,500 prisoners were allowed visits Sunday.

Most of the mothers wore headscarves and many wore the traditional, "shalvar" or colourful baggy trousers. Most appeared to come from poorer city areas and some came from as far away as Izmir, 80 kilometres to the West. They were allowed into the prison compound in groups of about 20 for visits of 15 minutes.

Ozal describes regional problems as tragic

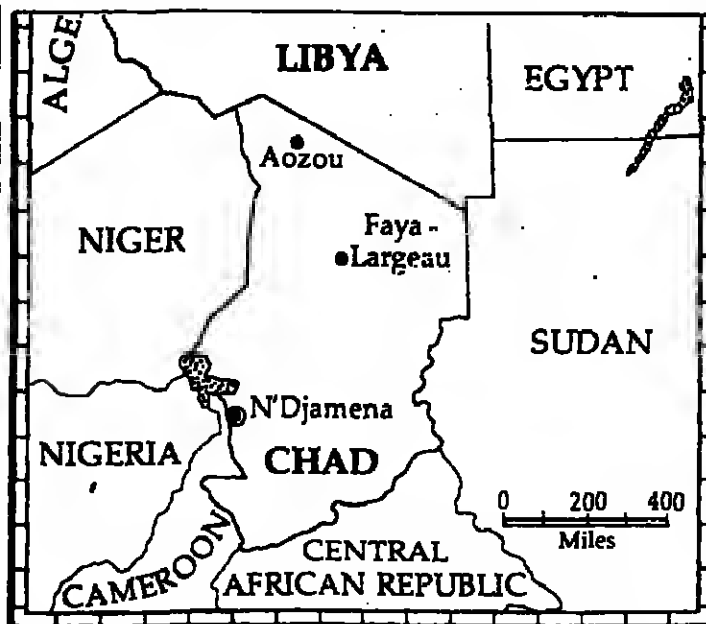
ISLAMABAD (AP) — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal of Turkey called Monday for an immediate end to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq, two problems he described as "the most tragic for the world."

He said that as a result of the Soviet military intervention in

Afghanistan, 3.5 million refugees have crossed into Pakistan and another 1.5 million into Iran.

"It means a total of 5 million Afghans, or one-third of the entire population, had to leave their homeland, making it one of the most tragic problems for the world," he said at a news conference at the close of his four-day official visit to Pakistan.

Asked whether the Islamic World and allied Western countries should consider breaking diplomatic ties both with Moscow and Kabul to try to force the withdrawal of 110,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan, Mr. Ozal said: "If you cut relations with these two countries, there will be no possibility to maintain contact with them and solve the problem."



France studies Qadhafi's offer for Chad pullout

PARIS (R) — The French government is studying proposals by Libyan Leader Muammar Qadhafi to pull his troops out of northern Chad, officials said Monday.

European Affairs Minister Roland Dumas confirmed Sunday night that Col. Qadhafi had sent President Francois Mitterrand a message about Chad, where 3,000 French troops are supporting the government of Hissene Habre against Libyan-backed rebels.

"The document... effectively contains proposals on the withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad. It's an important event. In any case it's a new development which may constitute an opening, a hope for a return to a more normal situation in Chad," Mr. Dumas said in a radio interview.

Col. Qadhafi was quoted by the newspaper Le Monde last week as saying he was ready to put an immediate end to his country's presence in Chad.

Mr. Dumas said the French government had made clear that its own troops would not remain in Chad a minute longer than necessary.

Officials said Monday that France wanted negotiations between the rival Chad factions. They said the French presence in Chad would be removed once the threat to the country from foreign troops disappeared.

Libya has in the past denied having troops in Chad, while Paris claims that Libyan soldiers have been fighting with the rebels since a renewed outbreak of civil war there last summer.

Moroccan aide opens Jewish congress

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Bassi formally opened the bi-annual congress of Morocco's Jewish communities Sunday in the presence of a large official delegation from Israel.

The congress of the 20,000 Jews still living in Morocco and representatives of Jews of Moroccan origin in other countries opened under rigid security precautions in Rabat's Hilton Hotel.

Access to the hotel was barred to all outsiders and the building was ringed by armed police.

For the first time, a delegation officially represented the estimated 500,000 Moroccan-born Jews now living in Israel.

Special arrangements were made to provide the Israeli del-

Sami Mubarak: Wafd will win elections

CAIRO (AP) — A younger brother of President Hosni Mubarak predicts that the opposition New Wafd Party will win more seats in the May 27 parliamentary elections than his brother's ruling National Democratic Party.

Mr. Sami Mubarak, a 52-year-old engineer, made the forecast in an interview with the bi-weekly Al-Ahram, organ of the rightist opposition Socialist Liberal Party, published on Monday.

Sami Mubarak is running in a Cairo constituency as a candidate for the New Wafd Party, a right-of-centre group and heir to the nation's largest political party before the 1952 revolution.

Mr. Sami Mubarak was strongly critical of the performance of the NDP but not of the person of his 56-year-old brother Hosni, who inherited leadership of the party

from his slain predecessor Anwar Sadat.

"I believe the Wafd will have a large plurality... in the sense that it will have more seats in the People's Assembly (parliament) than any other party, even the NDP," Al-Ahram quoted Sami Mubarak as saying.

He said he believed the elections "will be completely free but there may be tampering in some remote areas, and this is nothing new to the NDP" — a reference to alleged vote-rigging under Mr. Sadat.

Mr. Sami Mubarak expressed gratitude to President Mubarak for his repeated public pledges of free elections "and we insist on (implementation of) these pledges."

"Hosni Mubarak loves dem-

ocracy and freedom," he said. "Some people simply do not want to believe that we now have a genuine democratic experiment."

"The president knew in advance about my plan to join the New Wafd and he did not object," Mr. Sami Mubarak said.

Asked why he joined an opposition party and not his brother's ruling party, Mr. Sami Mubarak said: "Problems have been piling up without solutions and the present (NDP) government cannot find solutions easily because it has stopped at a certain level of thinking beyond which it cannot go."

"It would be better for the present government to hand over to people with a higher level of thinking," he added.

"One cannot hope for anything from the ruling party," he said.

Moroccan aide opens Jewish congress

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Bassi formally opened the bi-annual congress of Morocco's Jewish communities Sunday in the presence of a large official delegation from Israel.

The congress of the 20,000 Jews still living in Morocco and representatives of Jews of Moroccan origin in other countries opened under rigid security precautions in Rabat's Hilton Hotel.

Access to the hotel was barred to all outsiders and the building was ringed by armed police.

For the first time, a delegation officially represented the estimated 500,000 Moroccan-born Jews now living in Israel.

Special arrangements were made to provide the Israeli del-

egates with travel documents allowing them to enter Morocco.

Moroccan officials said the king intended Mr. Bassi's appearance at the congress to be seen as reflecting King Hassan's desire for peace in the Middle East and peaceful co-existence between Muslims and Jews throughout the Arab World.

The organizers said the congress was the largest ever held, although Morocco's Jewish population at the end of World War II was more than 30 times larger than at present.

Edgar Bronfman, President of the World Jewish Congress and one of the Jewish leaders who have met with King Hassan in the past, told the meeting: "This Jewish community is

composed of men and women who are proud to be Moroccan and are ardently loyal to His Majesty King Hassan II. You have consistently demonstrated that fact."

At the same time, Moroccan Jewry has raised a significant voice at every major meeting of the World Jewish Congress since you joined us in 1979. Your delegates have taken part in meetings we have held with President Reagan and other American leaders, where you urged further American support for Morocco in its struggle over the Sahara."

This was a reference to Morocco's eight-year-old war with the Algerian-backed Polisario guerrilla movement seeking the independence of the Western Sahara.

New defence minister may purge Lebanese army

By Alistair Lyon
Reuter

BEIRUT — Lebanon's new defence minister sees his first task as re-organising and, if necessary, purging the country's divided army which now mirrors the country's political and religious divisions.

Adel Ossseiran, a 79-year-old Shiite Muslim appointed to the National Unity Government formed by Prime Minister Rashid Karami, told Reuters in an interview a purge might be needed because of charges that the army was partisan and corrupt.

Mr. Ossseiran, from the southern city of Sidon and regarded as a moderate, said: "There are many rumours of partisanship and bribery, but first we need authentic information about different parts of the army."

"Once such information is available, we can send as many soldiers as we can to sectors where they are needed," he said.

When President Amin Gemayel came to power in September 1982 he saw a strong army as essential to unite Lebanon and secure a withdrawal of foreign forces. Now the force is fragmented.

In February, the army's Sixth Brigade of about 2,500 men stood aside when opposition militias seized west Beirut and Syrian-

backed Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) militia drove the Fourth Brigade from hills southeast of Beirut.

Since then, army units loyal to Mr. Gemayel have fought alongside Falangist militiamen confronting opposition forces along the "green line" dividing Beirut. Others are defending the mountain town of Souq Al-Gharb against the Mainly Druze (PSP).

Mr. Ossseiran said a rebuilt army must be neutral. Asked if Lebanon needed a strong army, he said the cabinet would look into reasons for its recent failures before taking a position.

An urgent issue facing the government is Israeli-occupied South Lebanon, where the army has no effective presence.

A few hundred men originally posted to an area bordering Israel form the core of a pro-Israeli militia founded by the late Maj. Saad Haddad. Israel is grooming the militia, now commanded by retired army Gen. Antoine Lahd, to take control of the south when Israeli troops withdraw.

Shiite Leader Nabih Berri, minister of state for South Lebanon in the new cabinet, has said the army must be ready to move into the South to counter Israel's strategy.

But any official action against Gen. Lahd is likely to run into

opposition from a Maronite Christian member of Karami's cabinet, Former President Camille Chamoun.

It was Mr. Chamoun, as defence minister in 1976, who ordered Maj. Haddad to defend Christian villages in the south against Palestinian commands.

Mr. Berri is pressing for major changes in the army, which has always been commanded by a Maronite, to remove Christian "domination of the officer corps."

He says Lebanon should use "all means, including military ones" to liberate the mainly Shiite south, where local fighters mount almost daily attacks against the Israelis.

Mr. Ossseiran said it was for the cabinet to decide the best way to end Israeli occupation. "Any resistance that safeguards the sovereignty and independence of the state can be considered quite legitimate," he added.

Mr. Ossseiran said he sympathised with Mr. Berri's Amal Movement because it was formed "to save the south from its enemies."

He said Lebanon would probably ask the United Nations to push for Israeli withdrawal and send more troops to help the army take over, but he doubted whether the United States would press Israel to respond.

Until U.S. Marines pulled out of Beirut in February, Washington was Lebanon's main military backer, supplying arms, ammunition and training for the army.

Mr. Ossseiran said his suspicions about the sincerity of U.S. policy towards Lebanon had been confirmed by the way Washington insisted on full payment for all services rendered.

Apart from an estimated 15,000 Israeli occupation troops, Syria has some 40,000 soldiers stationed in northern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley to the east.

Asked if the government would seek a Syrian withdrawal, Mr. Ossseiran said an Israeli pullout would probably have to come first. Syria had said its troops would leave as soon as the Lebanese government asked them to do so, he noted.

"Syria has played a constructive role in Lebanon and will continue to do so because this is in the interests of both countries," he said. "Politically, both countries have obligations to face every enemy who tries to impose himself on either or both of them."

Damascus has played a key role in persuading rival factions to join Mr. Karami's cabinet, which Mr. Ossseiran described as Lebanon's last hope for survival.

Mr. Ossseiran was one of eight leaders who attended a Syrian-

sponsored reconciliation conference in Switzerland in March. Six of them are now ministers in the new cabinet.

He was optimistic that the cabinet would be able to agree on ways to stop factional fighting despite long-standing differences among its members.

The defence minister's long career has evolved with Lebanon's history as a nation. He first made his mark as an opponent of the French mandate and served in the first cabinet after independence in 1943.

His good relations with Mr. Chamoun and Falangist Leader Pierre Gemayel date from that period and he was speaker of parliament, a post traditionally reserved for Shiites, during Mr. Chamoun's term as president from 1952 to 1958.

As interior minister in a Karami-led cabinet in 1969, he incurred the wrath of the left for his tough attitude towards a newly-assertive Palestinian commando movement.

Unlike most Lebanese politicians, Mr. Ossseiran can claim to bridge the gap between Falangists such as Mr. Pierre Gemayel and Mr. Chamoun, and opposition such as Mr. Berri, who are demanding an end to Maronite dominance of Lebanon's political system.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL
17:30 Koran
17:40 Cartoons
18:00 Children Programme
18:25 Children Programme
19:00 Programmes Review
20:30 News in Arabic
21:40 Arabic Series
22:30 Arabic Series
23:10 Arabic Series
23:10 Series Continued

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:00 Water Coolidge
21:10 Hart to Hart
22:00 News in English
22:15 Shades of Darkness

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 90 MHz. FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:55 Morning Show
11:00 News Summary
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instruments
14:30 Science Fiction
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 News Summary
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
18:05 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show
22:05 News Headlines
23:05 Evening Show
14:00 News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz
06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Patrick Marry's Music Box 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:05 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 A Treasury of Music 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Divers for the World 09:00 World News 09:05 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Iberia 09:45 London Royal 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections 10:15 Such Sweet Harmony 10:30 Somerset Maugham Stories 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Sing A Song of London 12:00 Discovery 12:30 Pageant of the Past 13:00 World News 13:05 News 13:25 Scotland This Week 13:30 Sports International 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Women of Mystery 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 London Royal 15:45 A Jolly Good Show 16:30 I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:05 Commentary 18:15 Omnibus 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:05 Meridian 19:40 Scotland This Week 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 News 20:30 Nature Notebook 20:40 The Farming World 21:00 Outlook: News Summary 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 That's Trid 22:00 World News 22:05 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sing A Song of London 22:45 Women of Mystery 23:15 Letter from London 23:25 Book Choice 23:30 These Musical Islands 24:00 World News 06:00 The World Today 06:25 Scotland This Week 06:30 Financial News 06:40 Reflections 06:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15 Music For a While 01:30 Meridian

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260, SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz
06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour: news summaries, daily business report, science and medicine, sports reports: VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary, viewpoints, lectures 7:00 News 1710 Newsline 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus 18:30 Now Music USA 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 Special English News and Features 20:00 News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Pairings by Ali Jabri at the British Council
* "Jordan 1984" an exhibition of paintings at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.
* Art exhibition by Mr. Michel Lecomte at the Royal Cultural Centre between May 7 and May 15.

VIDEOS

* "Les beaux meubres de Bois-Dore" 2nd Episode at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre 44371
American Centre Library 41520
British Council 361474
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Tehrik Cultural Centre 39777
Hayat Ara Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41703
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qaf (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains an excellent collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th century orientalist artists. Munazzah, Jabel

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Air Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:05 Cairo (MS)
07:30 Amman (RJ)
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DEPARTURES

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JVA signs irrigation contract

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement was signed Monday between the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and a German company under which it will extend the East Ghor Canal for a further 14.5 kilometres as well as constructing a major pipeline to bring water from the Zarqa River to Wadi Al Rajib.

The pipeline will carry water from the Zarqa River and the Klog Tala Dam to vegetable fields located between Wadi Al Rajib in the north and the Zarqa River in the south.

The cost of the first project, scheduled to be completed in 1988, is around JD 9.3 million while the second project will cost about JD 2 million of which a JD 13 million loan from the West German government, made available for a number of projects, will contribute, with an annual interest rate of two per cent and to be repaid over 25 years.

The agreement was signed by JVA President Munther Haddadin and by the German company director.

Ring road planned

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman municipality intends to construct a ring road around Amman to be called the "Mountains Highway."

This road will go through the city and link Firas Circle in Jabal Hussein with Abdali in front of the parliament before continuing through Wadi Saqra Street near the Petra Bank Building to the Third Circle on Jabal Amman and through to Wadi Abdou.

A tunnel will be dug from Al Hussein Ibn Ali Street, opposite the Holiday Inn Hotel, towards Ras El Ein from under the Third Circle.

This will cost a total of JD 1.9 million, and, if a further proposal to build a bridge over Third Circle goes ahead, the total cost of the highway will reach JD 2.65 million.

The Third Circle crossroads project will be postponed for fear of a clash with the proposed highway and studies are currently being undertaken by the municipality's technical staff in order to co-ordinate both projects.

A consultancy firm has prepared a study on traffic movement in Amman and has suggested the implementation of this project to reduce traffic jams in these areas.

Arab development team tours RSS

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), Dr. Fakhruddin Al Daghistani, Monday briefed the Head of the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development Hatem Al Rashid and his accompanying delegation on the activities of the RSS, the nature and fields of its work, in addition to the services and research the RSS has undertaken to serve development goals, particularly in the industrial field.

Mr. Rashid, who arrived in Amman Sunday at the head of a delegation on a few day official visit to Jordan, toured the various sections of the society and watched a documentary film about industry and those interested in industrial development at both the regional and national levels.

Mr. Rashid added that such visits are aimed at achieving the organisation's objectives of Arab integration and co-ordination.

He went on to say that he will discuss with Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, Jawad Al Anani and a number of leading industrialists in Jordan how his organisation can provide to the industrial sector in Jordan through technical aid, and the training of vocational personnel.



A delegation from Arab Organisation for Industrial Development just after their arrival Sunday on a several day visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

the growth of the RSS and its achievements in the field of development in Jordan and the Arab World.

Director of the RSS economic department Mohammad Al Samad said that both parties had agreed to revive the 1974 agreement which the RSS and the organisation signed to bolster bilateral co-operation.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Rashid said his visit to Jordan falls within the organisation's policy to consult with Arab ministers of ind-

accessories, Col. Udwan said.

He said members of the group operating from Baqa'a also posed as relatives of the victims they intended to rob. One of these, Rala'a, used to ring doorbells and persuade people to hand him money to be taken, he claimed, to relatives in other parts of the country.

According to Col. Udwan, another four member group operating in the Jordan Valley was caught earlier this month after stealing money and robbing people of their possessions under the threat of force.

Land classification seminar opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A seminar on land classification, organised by the Arab Centre for the Study of Dry Regions and Arid Territories (ACSDRAT) in co-operation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), started here Monday at the Jerusalem Mella Hotel.

The seminar was opened by Ministry of Agriculture Under-Secretary Saleem Al Lawzi, on behalf of Minister of Agriculture Muhammad Bashir.

Delivering the opening speech, Dr. Lawzi paid tribute to the efforts made by the ACSDRAT and all other bodies co-operating in this subject and in training staff in this respect.

According to Lt. Tawfiq Nawaiseh, an Egyptian worker with knife wounds reported to the police that a group of thieves attacked him and ran away after they failed to rob him.

The man was given first aid and then sent to hospital due to the seriousness of his injuries, Lt. Nawaiseh said.

Three days later, he said, three Saudi Arabian nationals reported to the police in Baqa'a camp that a group of thieves had attacked them and robbed them of all their money.

Increased Arab effort needed to correct image in U.S., says Noor

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American people are ignorant about many of the important issues facing our region but they are beginning to show a greater understanding of the Palestine question, according to Her Majesty Queen Noor who recently concluded a lecture tour of the United States.

In a wide ranging interview she gave to Al Ra'i daily Arabic newspaper, Queen Noor also talked about her relationship with His Majesty King Hussein and about the position of women in Jordanian society.

Below are excerpts from the interview:

Q: Let us go back to the visit which you made to the United States. What was the purpose of it?

A: The visit had a number of goals. It was basically to try to gain the support of the U.S. society for Jordan and to establish a basis for cultural and social links between the United States and the Arab World away from any political interference. I believe that these activities are important and that the Arab World should expand its relations and its contacts with all nations of the world not only through political means but also through social and cultural means.

Q: What created this idea?

A: In the past few years, King Hussein and I have received numerous messages from American people requesting us to talk to them about Jordan and the Arab World and the problems which they face so that the American public can have a genuine insight about the Arab World.

I realised they wanted to know more about our part of the world as they are ignorant about many of the issues in the region, and also their concepts about us are distorted. They said that by presenting a true picture to them I would help them to have a clearer idea about our affairs. I believe we can do this in a number of ways especially as I have backgrounds of both the American and Arab cultures.

Q: How did you explain the problems which Jordan and the rest of the Arab World face?

A: I presented the problems in a candid and unbiased manner and spoke to them as a person concerned with their society, and as one interested in cementing humanitarian relations between nations. I spoke as a Jordanian, keen on gaining American support for my country, and I spoke about Arab states and expressed my concern over the sufferings and pain which prevail in the Arab region. Their response was good and

they expressed their appreciation for my presence and my talks on various issues. Even those who did not support my views, expressed sympathy.

Q: During your visit you spoke about the Palestine issue. How did you rate the American public's reaction?

A: I believe there is an increasing understanding of the Palestine issue in the United States. There is a greater public awareness that information reaching them about the Palestinians is not complete. There is also a realisation of the danger which we now face and that the relations between the United States and the Arab World, and the world at large should be handled in a more realistic manner.

Q: Do you believe that your tour of the United States has had its effect on the official as well as the public levels?

A: In fact this is what I wanted to achieve. Of course not all the people read the newspapers or watch television and therefore they have a distorted picture about the Arab World. In fact the more the information they get the more their desire becomes to know about the Arab World. I believe that Arabs and Americans, and in fact Arabs and many Western people, are similar in their belief in individual freedom, and both have national pride and determination to achieve what is best. I think the Americans would show a greater measure of response once they realised the truth about us. The government system in the United States is very complicated and is subject to many pressures by different groups. Most certainly the government faces pressure from the Zionist lobby which has a considerable influence on the government while Zionist funds also sway decision makers in the U.S.

Q: Did you participate with King Hussein in taking decisions?

A: I consider myself as a true friend of the King, as well as a wife and mother of his children. We are friends who discuss all our mutual interests in open frankness. I don't think I can advise him at all because in fact I learn a lot from his political experiences and wisdom. But we discuss ways to develop our work. It is true that I don't share in taking political decisions

concerning the state but I am keen to learn from his experience and I try to create new ideas for the future.

I try to play a positive role in humanitarian affairs and this no doubt is reflected in political decisions. The country is managed by the King, the government and parliament, in addition to our citizens who take an active part in developing the country, and I try to contribute by offering suggestions and ideas, and to help the government to create a better future for all people.

Q: Does the King find enough time for his children?

A: The King exerts his best effort to offer care for his children. They are our responsibility and through them we hope to achieve our aspirations.

Q: Have any changes occurred in the status of Jordanian women in the light of recent developments in Jordan?

A: I believe there has been a clear development in this field and I quote statistics which show the extent of change. In 1975 only five per cent of Jordanian women were employed, but now women form 20 per cent of the overall workforce in the country, and this is a significant increase. At universities, half of the students now are female and this reflects the desire among women to acquire an education and become involved in future work.

Q: You have many activities like organising the Jerash Festival and children's societies... can you tell us about them?

A: My activities are focused on solving problems and offering new ideas. For example it was my idea to create a children's society and it met with great success. Also the Jerash Festival was equally successful. Through this festival we presented folk art and culture and tried to present to the public a taste of other countries' culture and art. I was my idea to call Arab children to Jordan every summer. Gathering children together will help them to understand the necessity of developing relations among nations and creating an atmosphere of love and affection.

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Your IATA travel agent or Swissair will be glad to give you all further information.

Swissair Amman, c/o Near East Tourist Centre, Arcades Hotel Jordan International, P.O. Box 2518, phone 41906, 41361, ext. 2318.

swissair

Japanese arranger to give show as part of YWCA flower week

Text and photograph by Takade Nakayama

AMMAN — An expert on the famous Japanese flower arranging art of "Ikebana", currently on a visit to Jordan, will hold a one-day "flower demonstration show" here at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Tuesday.

Mrs. Noriko Matsudaira told the Jordan Times that Ikebana is a form of art just like painting. "You cannot say that this is the best way of doing it, there is always room for creativity."

Mrs. Matsudaira, ex-president of the Tokyo Chapter of Ikebana International, was invited by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in co-operation with the Japanese embassy here, to hold a flower demonstration during the YWCA's annual flower show.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mrs. Matsudaira said that Japanese flower arrangement is now widely known all over the world by the name of Ikebana, which is one of the most popular arts in Japan.

She added that, along with the introduction of Buddhism to Japan, Ikebana was brought from China in the sixth century. At the beginning it was simply considered as an offering of flowers to the Buddha by priests.

According to Mrs. Matsudaira, who also holds the highest degree for instructors in the Sogetsu School of Ikebana (Riji), the custom was by the end of the 14th century completely separated from religious belief.

The head of the government at that time in Japan, called the Shogun, held a flower arrangement contest and festival in his palace which indicated his high interest in the art of flower arrangement.

From that time, the expert said, that art became popular among Japanese "artists" and gradually came to be appreciated by everyone in the country.

She said that nowadays, there are about 3,000 schools teaching Ikebana, each having its own different method of techniques and



Mrs. Noriko Matsudaira, an expert in the Japanese art of "Ikebana" flower arranging, with one of her creations.

style.

However, there has been a gradual change in the traditional approach of students studying Ikebana in Japan. The expert said that a few decades ago, "it was customary for a girl from a respectable family to acquire skills in two forms of art in order to prepare herself for marriage."

Bridal training

"One of the skills was the Japanese tea ceremony (Sadu) and the other was Ikebana," she said. Eventually Ikebana was considered a part of the "bridal training".

Mrs. Matsudaira, who has been experimenting in Ikebana for the last 30 years, maintains that Japanese society has undergone changes for neither Sadu nor Ikebana are considered any longer as requirements for unmarried women anymore. Therefore, only those who truly love flowers are the ones studying Ikebana, she added.

Mrs. Matsudaira believes strongly that Ikebana can help contribute to better communications between flower lovers by strengthening friendly ties as manifested in the success of the Ikebana International, a worldwide organisation for Ikebana students, which was established in 1956.

The AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL has an opening for ACCOUNTING - SECRETARY

Applicants must be Jordanian with fluent English. Applications should be made in person at the Amman Marriott Hotel/Personnel Office.

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The rebirth of a tragedy

THE talk in Israel about whether the building and expanding of Jewish settlements in the West Bank is either an essential strategy for the survival of the state or a recipe for disaster is totally inaccurate in as far as portrayal of the issue is concerned. What with a government that religiously believes in the right of Jews to possess "Judea and Samaria" as part of "Eretz Israel" and those Jews who rush to settle the land because it is offered to them for very little money?

It really is difficult to believe an Israeli who expresses regret that what they call the "pressing security needs" of Israel mean infringing upon the rights of the Palestinians, especially he who paid, or did not pay, a few thousand dollars towards buying a three bed-room apartment on a hill in the woods overlooking Jerusalem. It is much less difficult to disbelieve the Labour Party platform which wants to strike a balance in the so-called conflict between Israeli "democracy" and "security", when the same Jewish settler voices such a concern.

Experts estimate American financial support for Israel, direct and indirect, seen and hidden, to be about \$7 billion a year, and not just the announced figure of \$2.5 billion. This is about \$2000 for each Jew in Israel — a figure apparently big enough to pay the downpayment for an apartment in the West Bank for each individual.

Annexation of the occupied territories has become a matter of time, according to an Israeli expert who has been studying the situation there for a number of years. The perspective is for a bi-national state in Palestine where the Jews rule over the Arabs with discrimination taking roots like in South Africa — unless of course the Israeli extremists (or whatever you might call them) manage to expel what is left of the Palestinian people from its homeland in time.

This is a colonisation irreversible or a naked proof of Israeli expansionism and violation of international law or both. It is all happening on the 36th anniversary of the establishment of the Israeli state. It is all reminiscent of the first dispossession of the Palestinian people and of building the Israeli empire anew. The real tragedy lies in that it is all taking place while the world just looks on and the U.S. is paying.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: World conference recommended

LISTENERS TO the BBC programme on Sunday heard King Hussein explain the truth about the Middle East situation. Israel's measures to annex Arab lands and Jordan's commitment to help efforts succeed in bringing about peace to the region.

In answering questions from around the world, King Hussein was keen on re-affirming Jordan's position that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 serves as a basis for solving the issue and for this he achieved a projected U.N.-sponsored international conference must be convened to settle the issue.

It is the international community still supports the principle of the inalienability of occupying foreign territory by force, then such a conference is deemed necessary. King Hussein said that partial solutions of the issue as advocated by the United States have not ended the Arab-Israeli conflict and U.S. support for Israel and its aggressive policies have in fact encouraged the Zionist state to pursue its repressive rule inside the occupied territories and expansionist plans in neighbouring Arab states.

Washington's support for Israel and its unlimited financial and military assistance to the aggressors reflect U.S. defiance of international principles and U.N. recommendations and resolutions. In reply to questions put to him by listeners around the globe King Hussein presented a warning to the world of the danger inherent in continued occupation and also of the consequences of another devastating war in the region.

Al Dustour: King promises effort

IN THE interview Sunday with the BBC, King Hussein expressed his deep distress over the continued sufferings of the Arab people under Israeli occupation and the very difficult conditions under which they live. King Hussein also pledged that he will continue to exert all possible efforts for the establishment of a just and durable peace.

In the interview, the King exposed to the whole world Israel's continued drive to expel Arabs from their land and explained Jordan's total commitment to the principles of peace. He was careful to mention that as Arabs continue to seek peace, the Israelis, backed by world Zionism and financed by the United States, continue to build settlements and continue to deny the Palestinians their rights in their homeland. It is because of continued U.S. assistance to Israel and due to its financial and military help that the Arab-Israeli conflict remains unresolved and the Middle East issue more complicated.

King Hussein's statements serve as a warning to the whole world of the dangers inherent in Israel's policies and a reminder that an international peace conference to solve the issue has become necessary.

Sawt Al Shaab: Rights cannot wait

AS THE Arabs continue their drive in every corner of the world to bring about peace in the Middle East, Israel continues to create new realities and new situations in the land which it occupied from the Arabs in 1967. Israel continues to impede all efforts aimed at achieving peace and refuses to implement U.N. resolutions on Palestinian rights in their homeland.

Israel has been able to pursue its aggressive policies and continue to expand in the Arab region because of continued U.S. help and unlimited support politically, financially and militarily. Israel has also been able to pursue its settlements policy in the occupied Arab land with funds it continues to receive from the U.S. government and American Jews.

The United States has gone back on all its promises for achieving peace. It has succumbed to the pressures of world Zionism and has given Israel a free hand in the occupied lands and helped it to launch all its campaigns against the Palestinians and against the neighbouring Arab states.

As King Hussein said in the BBC interview Sunday, Washington's support for the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 has eroded and the U.S. now seems to be supporting Israel's views in everything that pertains to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The partial solutions which the U.S. has been advocating all along are nothing but a ploy to help the Israelis attain their goals and carry out their expansionist plans.

Parliament is trying to tell us something

By Rami G. Khouri

THE DEBATE in the Lower House of Parliament today will touch on some of the most important and sensitive issues facing the country, and the rest of the Arab World, for that matter. The formation of political parties and the rights of citizens to travel and work if they have had their passports confiscated by the government are two of the key issues that will be discussed.

To discuss these issues in a public forum such as the Jordanian Parliament is in itself, in today's Arab World, a rare and long overdue act worthy of both praise and great care. The newly reconvened Jordanian Parliament will need some time to find its appropriate role in the world of the mid-1980s, given that most of its members were elected in April 1967.

The recent byelections for eight East Bank seats were most noteworthy perhaps because they indicated a strong polarisation of political opinion towards the two ends of the ideological and emotional spectrum. On the right were several victorious candidates who espoused the relevance of traditional Islamic principles of life and public order and mor-

ality. On the left were candidates (winners or close seconds) who preached a blend of "leftist" politics blended into a melange of rejectionism, anti-Americanism, pan-Arabism, mild socialism and bits and pieces of Arab political movements that flourished in the 1950s and have lingered ever since in the minds of some Arab men and women. In between these two extremes were traditional family or tribal candidates who remind us of the strong influence of social and tribal ties in the country.

The newly-elected members of parliament probably accurately reflect the range of political and emotional sentiment within the land today, a sentiment dominated by a peculiar and unpleasant combination of frustration, disenchantment and directionlessness. A citizenry wandering among the scars of its confusion, humiliation and chronic defeat will logically seek emotional refuge in currents that gravitate towards the two ends of the political spectrum — such as, for example, George McGovern and Richard Nixon, or the likes of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher, or the can-

didates who dominated the Jordanian parliamentary elections in March.

Now that the legislature has reconvened and elected some fresh members, it seems ready to move on to the process of legislating. Of course, the Jordanian parliament is not just a parliament, in the same sense as the British or American legislative branches of government. I suspect that our parliament will gradually develop into an institution that takes on many of the tasks performed in the western democracies by the judicial branch of government. Among the most important of these is the interpretation of the constitution, particularly in the realm of the rights of the individual and the institutional structure of public policy formulation.

There are two classic areas of public life in which the legislative and executive branches of governments throughout the world have often disputed authority: the control of money (the budget) and the control of the means of public order and/or violence (the armed forces, police and national security as a whole). It is precisely

into these uncharted areas that the Jordanian Parliament seems keen to venture, in a move that is virtually unprecedented in the modern history of the Arab World.

We are dealing with questions here of almost Aristotelian magnitude and significance: How should public life be organised? If the people have the right to elect their representatives for an assembly that legislates public order and morality, should or should not that assembly formally and institutionally mirror the diversity of political views within the citizenry via the existence of political parties? What authority has the state (or, the executive branch of government) to confiscate citizens' passports and restrict their job options? If the state has this authority (which it clearly does have, and everywhere in the world for that matter), from whence does it derive its powers to do the things it does in the name of public order, security, tranquillity and progress? If a tax-paying citizen of the state feels he has been wrongly or badly treated by an officer or an officer of the executive branch of the government, how does

he or she petition for a redress of grievance and seek emotional and/or material restitution? If a citizen suspects that public officials have improperly used public funds, or have taken unfair advantage of their position to further personal gain, how is the public official to be held accountable before the citizenry?

This is all very heavy stuff, indeed. It suggests that our parliament has not been reconvened only to pass bills about tomato exports or building codes. It also seems keen to play a major role in defining the nature of public life and decision-making in the land, and to act as the guarantor of individual liberties and fundamental human rights. In other words, our parliament is taking on the additional trappings of a constitutional convention, a supreme court, and a civil liberties union.

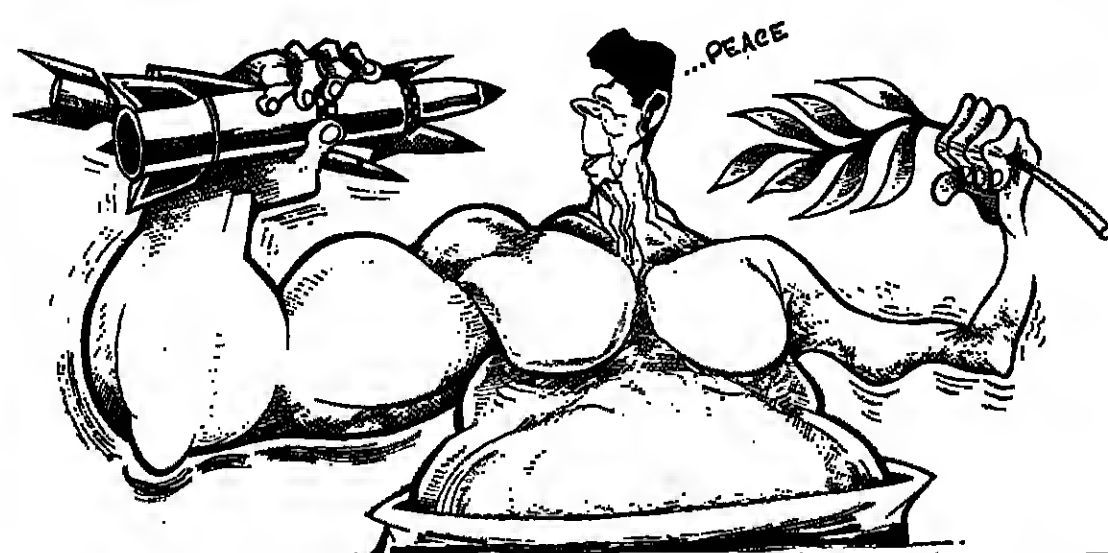
In a small Third World country such as ours, this is neither surprising nor worrying. It is, rather, to be applauded if it happens with grace, tranquillity and logic. After all, many other Jordanian institutions have taken on functions that were

not in their original charters. The national airline, Alia, runs hotels, art galleries and restaurants. The Housing Bank runs a lottery. The Pension Fund launches industries.

Jordan is among the best placed of Arab countries to develop a parliament with real powers, truly reflecting the sentiments of the citizenry, and providing a mechanism by which the private sentiments of the man and woman on the street and the public policy of the state are organically linked in a mutually supportive political process. This remains, ultimately, the only durable guarantor of one's personal and national security, and of one's very identity in a part of the world in which the concept of meaningful identity and personal and national self-expression and growth have been increasingly subordinated to the quest for physical security, material satisfaction and intellectual standardisation.

I am not sure what, it is precisely, the parliament is trying to say, but I think it is worth listening more closely to its messages over the coming months and years.

Arab Views



'Lebanese Forces' open office in Israel

By Earleen Tatro

Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The Rightwing Lebanese Forces militia is unfurling the flag of Lebanon from an eighth-floor window facing the Israeli parliament.

The establishment here of an "information office" of the so-called Lebanese forces militia is an open act of defiance of Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and his government's recent return to the Arab fold.

It is also concrete evidence that Israel intends to continue open ties with its long-time allies in the Christian heartland of Beirut, despite Lebanon's unilateral annulment of the 1983 Israel-Lebanon accord.

The formal opening of the office is scheduled for May 17, the first anniversary of the accord. Mr. Gemayel abrogated two months ago. Israeli officials have indicated they plan to attend the ceremony.

The head of the office, Pierre Yazbek, has been living in a Jerusalem hotel for the past four months. His telephone rings frequently, and he fields calls in English, French and Arabic, switching with ease from one language to another, sometimes in mid-

conversation. The opening of an office here "is an affirmation of our independence," Yazbek said in an interview.

The Lebanese forces was spawned by the Gemayel family's Falange Party, but the young militiamen chafed under what they saw as the moribund leadership of aging Christian warlords like 79-year-old Pierre Gemayel, founder of the Falange and father of the Lebanese president.

Militia commander Fady Frem, whose wife is Amin Gemayel's niece, denounced the president's abrogation of the May 17 agreement with Israel in a series of speeches that transcended his previous role as strictly a military man.

Yazbek's desk is stacked with books of Jewish history, both ancient and modern. He spends 90 minutes a day studying Hebrew with a tutor. For occasions requiring respect of the Jewish religion, the 32-year-old Maronite Catholic has acquired an embroidered velvet kippa, the skullcap worn by Jewish men.

Plainclothes Israeli security men keep an eye on Yazbek's visitors. He meets regularly with foreign ministry officials and is interviewed often by the Israeli media.

One Israeli newspaper, Al-Hamishmar, has already dubbed him the Lebanese forces "ambassador" to Israel.

Israeli officials, however, are quick to point out that the Lebanese forces' office here is not to be accorded the full diplomatic status of an embassy, for "sovereign nations are not supposed to, have diplomatic relations with militias."

However, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche said the office staff will have access to certain privileges, such as the special white licence plates usually reserved for diplomats' cars and exemptions from customs duties.

Lebanon and Israel do not formally recognise each other, but Yazbek flies into Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport on his Lebanese passport. He also has an American passport, because his mother was born in the United States to Lebanese parents.

The Lebanese Forces' five-room office, rented for \$800 a month in a luxury limestone high-rise, is to have a staff of six or

seven, according to Yazbek. In addition to Yazbek, this includes three or four tech. press and administrative attaches from the Lebanese forces, plus an Israeli secretary and Israeli driver.

Two shiny silver flagpoles have been installed outside the front window for the Lebanese national flag and the banner of the Lebanese forces with its distinctive geometric cedar-tree.

Yazbek said discussions are already under way for reciprocal trade between Israel and the Christian area controlled by the Lebanese Forces. Cultural co-operation, including university scholarships, are also on the agenda.

Yazbek denied the Lebanese Forces had come to Israel to seek protection from Syria and its Lebanese leftist allies.

"This is not a search for a protector," he said. "Lebanon is not becoming a protectorate of anyone — not Israel, not Syria, not the United States."

Instead, he said, the Lebanese Forces hoped that other Lebanese groups, such as the Druze and the Shiite Muslims, could reach their own terms with Israel and then with each other.

Vietnamese prefer to receive Australians

By Jose Katigbak

Reuters

HANOI — Washington's latest efforts to trace the remains of U.S. servicemen missing in action during the Vietnam war are likely to be delayed because Hanoi prefers to deal first with Australia, which it now considers its friend.

Some diplomats in Hanoi believe this is the implicit signal coming from the Vietnamese government following its decision to delay talks with Washington until after similar discussions with Australia over its war dead.

Cu Dinh Ba, acting director of the Foreign Ministry's North American Department and its permanent representative to the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Personnel, told Reuters the remains of eight Americans would be handed over when U.S. and Vietnamese experts meet.

But he said this meeting, first fixed for April 18 and then tentatively rescheduled for mid-May at Hanoi's suggestion, was now likely to be held after a two-week visit by an Australian delegation which started Thursday.

Although Australian forces fought with the Americans in the Vietnam war, the Labour government in Canberra now believes

attempts should be made to bring Vietnam into the community of nations as part of a process of solving Hanoi's presence in Kampuchea. Mr. Ba said Canberra requested the visit when Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach visited Australia in March, and "we agreed to it because they are good friends."

After talks in Hanoi, Australian Foreign and Defence Department officials would make on-the-spot investigations in areas around Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) and Danang where six Australian servicemen were reported lost, he said.

Because of the Australian visit, talks with the Americans, delayed for technical reasons, would "most probably be postponed to end-May or early June."

The planned U.S.-Vietnam contacts are the first of quarterly technical-level talks agreed to after a visit to Hanoi in February by a government mission led by Assistant U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Armitage.

Mr. Ba said the remains of eight U.S. servicemen found early this year — five in the Hanoi-Haiphong area, two in Gia Lai-Kontum province and one in Ho Chi Minh City — would be han-

ded over to the U.S. delegation there.

The remains of each individual would be placed in a small coffin-like box bearing his presumed name, which U.S. specialists in Hawaii would later try to verify.

Mr. Ba said the remains found in Ho Chi Minh City were buried in a public cemetery with an identification bracelet and dogtag, the name on which matched that of a Marine listed by American authorities as missing in action in Danang.

Foreign Minister Thach has said investigations showed this Marine was buried in 1966 or 1967 when the Americans were still in Saigon.

The United States has listed 2,494 servicemen as missing in action during its fight to maintain control of the western-oriented South. Of those missing, 1,853 were lost in Vietnam, 559 in Laos and 82 in Kampuchea.

The United States pulled its troops out of South Vietnam in 1973 following peace talks in Paris, but the war did not end until 1975 when Viet Kong and North Vietnamese forces captured Saigon and re-united the country.

Mr. Ba said a list provided by the United States of those missing in Vietnam showed 769 were pil-

ots drowned over the North. The remainder were listed as missing in the South.

Since 1974 the remains of 88 Americans had been handed over. Mr. Ba said, but added this "humanitarian effort" was being hindered by Washington's hostile attitude and slander against Vietnam.

Mr. Ba said some of the remains had no skulls or comprised very small bones. Others had dogtags or other identifying articles.

He said he had heard that some "bad elements" in the South were trafficking in bones and passing them off as remains of missing Americans for a profit. But he said these bones were not those of missing men.

During a visit to Ho Chi Minh City in December 1981 was approached by a foreign resident who claimed he had information on the remains of about 11 people, but he backed off after being asked for a sample of bone for testing.

Some war veterans here believe no full accounting will ever be possible. Even if accurate information on locations were available, they said changes of terrain and the ravages of time ruled out much chance of success.

Soviet Olympic pullout indicates arms talks stalemate to continue

By Sidney Weiland

Reuters

LONDON — Moscow's decision to pull out of the Olympic Games angered Western officials who had hoped for a tactical shift soon in Kremlin policy on arms control.

NATO diplomats say the Soviet action shows the ruling politburo is reconciled to a "long haul" standoff in East-West relations, especially if President Reagan stays in office.

But they caution nothing should be taken for granted in dealing with the present Soviet leadership — not even the finality of Tuesday's announcement that Soviet sportsmen would stay away from the Los Angeles summer games.

The prevalent Western view has been that Moscow, pursuing a calculatedly tough policy, would sit out the U.S.-Soviet arms stalemate probably until after the U.S. presidential election next November. That remains the majority assessment.

But some analysts saw a possible return to suspended missile negotiations in Geneva around mid-1984 if Kremlin experts judged Reagan to be unbeatable for a second term.

That theory has been hit squarely on the head by the Olympics decision, a senior official said.

Western alliance experts generally agree that Moscow is exacting revenge for a U.S.-led partial boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics, and that it feared some of its athletes would defect in Los Angeles.

"This is a major problem, probably greater than we realise," a London-based analyst said. Another official forecast up to 20 defections among Communist competitors, a high prestige reverse.

Despite this rationale, experts believe the main reason behind the Soviet decision is that U.S.-Soviet relations are now worse than at any time since the cold war of the 1950s.

"It arms control had been going well, they would not have risked it," the London analyst said. European-based U.S. diplomats say all the signs suggest the Soviet Union will keep tensions simmering until the U.S. election and will do nothing that could help Mr. Reagan to be re-elected.

This view is largely shared by Western diplomatic observers. "Whoever says yes to dialogue must also say yes to the games," West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said after the Soviet announcement.

Until this week, some officials speculated that Moscow might return to arms negotiations after the U.S. Democratic Party convention chooses its presidential candidate in July.

This argument held that if former Vice President Walter Mondale was selected as the challenger, Soviet leaders would conclude that Mr. Reagan would probably win the contest.

In that event, with Mr. Reagan assumed eager to score an arms control success, they could expect American concessions that might no longer be available after the election.

The broadest Western diplomatic assessment is that the Olympic walkout shows the Kremlin has decided to hang tough on all foreign policy issues, including arms control.



Konstantin Chernenko

Some analysts believe Moscow policymakers may be prepared to wait even for four years, if Mr. Reagan is re-elected, before reopening a broad dialogue with the United States.

Others are uncertain how long the standoff may last, but few serious analysts of East-West relations now see any chance of a major move by Moscow on the negotiating front before the end of this year at the earliest.

This week also, Moscow abruptly postponed a visit in Peking by First Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Arkhipov. It would have been the highest-level Sino-Soviet contact in 15 years.

The move was widely seen as a snub following criticism of Soviet policy by Mr. Reagan during a China visit two weeks earlier.

Moscow's tough stance overall is linked by many analysts to what they see as inertia and confusion after the third change in the top Soviet leadership since late 1982.

Some East European diplomats agree also that the Kremlin is still in a state of transition after Konstantin Chernenko's election as Communist Party leader and president this year.

They say there would be no surprise in Eastern Europe if Soviet policy continues to lack a confident touch until long-term leadership problems are resolved. "Soviet policy is too rigid to allow for fine tuning," a NATO diplomat says.

Lawrence Eagleburger, third-ranking U.S. State Department official, says: "What we have had to deal with in regard to the Soviet Union over the course of the last three years is, to put it mildly, a very uncertain trumpet."

While Western governments tend to see Mr. Chernenko as a caretaker, officials believe a return to the arms talks will not necessarily have to wait resolution of the leadership issue.

The Soviet Union broke off negotiations on European-based missiles last November and on strategic weapons in December.

Most arms specialists think Moscow will seek to return to the strategic talks soon after the U.S. election.

This would be easier than resuming talks on medium-range missiles in Europe. These were suspended by Moscow on the specific ground that the West had challenged the existing balance by starting to have new U.S. weapons in Europe.

Arms experts say the Soviets are more interested in a deal on strategic rockets before the introduction of sophisticated new U.S. systems such as the MX and Trident missiles.

Eventually, they say, Moscow may propose merging the strategic and medium-range negotiations — an idea the West distrusts — or putting both under a single umbrella that would cover "grey area" weapons such as British and French missiles.



Diary

MR. JOHN Coles private secretary to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for foreign affairs, is to succeed Sir Alan Urwick as U.K. ambassador to Jordan, according to a report in the London Times newspaper last week. Sir Alan is tipped to move to Egypt from here, but nobody knows exactly when, it seems, although the date suggested in sometime this year. The whole thing depends on the present British ambassador in Cairo, who is entitled and wants to continue his service there until next February, insiders say.

STILL MORE changes in the British mission in Jordan. The British Council representative, Dr. David Bell, and his wife are leaving for Britain after a three-year tour of duty here. Dr. Bell is retiring from active service at the age of 60. According to him, his retirement will contribute to curbing unemployment back home. First Secretary Alan Charlton, and his wife Judy, are also going back. Mr. Charlton is happy that only the ambassador, among the embassy staff, outlasted his stay in Amman.

CHILE'S AMBASSADOR Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Fernando Contreras is ending nine-and-a-half years of active duty in Amman in July. The name of his successor has not been announced yet, but sources rule out any linkage between the ambassador's transfer to headquarters and a recent decision by Jordan to move its only embassy in Latin America from Santiago to Brasilia. The Jordanian embassy move from Chile to Brazil is not politically motivated, the sources assert. "Brasilia is more centrally located as far as our relations with Latin America go. And Jordan and Brazil have an expanding trade reaching up to \$45 m," they say. "The embassy move was necessitated only by these factors." It was not exactly clear whether Mr. Contreras will be retiring from the foreign service or will take up another post at the foreign ministry upon his return home. The sources did not know.

AS SEEMS to be the case with the British and the Chileans, the Jordanian diplomatic service too has its hazards. Our ambassador to Saudi Arabia, retired Lt.-Gen. Awal Khalidi, is still waiting confirmation from Riyadh, nearly three months after his appointment by the government. The Saudis are apparently holding back because Jordan did not wait for more than several months to transfer our ex-ambassador in Riyadh, Hani Tabbarah, to London, according to well-informed sources. The Saudis seem to be telling us not to keep changing our envoys, important as they may be, in their kingdom, the sources say.

SO MUCH FOR THE diplomats and their movements, Jordanian journalists are on the move too. The name of Dr. Mazen Al-Arnuut of Yarmouk University is circulating in Amman to be the editor-in-chief and director of the Arabic daily newspaper Sawi Al Shaab, which is 51 per cent owned by the government. Dr. Arnuut is reportedly considering the offer, and has not made up his mind whether he would quit teaching journalism to actually practise it in full. Sawi Al Shaab has been edited by Mr. Ibrahim Sakliha since its appearance in the beginning of 1983.

AN UNIDENTIFIED Jordanian is reported to have helped a famous American comedian overcome at least one of her problems. An item in the International Herald Tribune's famous column "People" recently read as follows: "A Jordanian man has ended Lucille Ball's henna crisis. The comedian, 73, in New York for the opening of an exhibition of her work at the Museum of Broadcasting said that after she told an interviewer she was running out of the 50 pounds (22.6 kilograms) of Egyptian henna she imported years ago in give her hair its distinctive red tint, a man from Jordan visited her in California. He had brought 55 pounds of Egyptian henna, 'the real stuff, the stuff Cleopatra used,' Ball said. More than 700 hours of the actress's comedy programmes are being shown in the exhibition, through mid-September. Amman was full of questions about the famous but mysterious Jordanian.

Flamboyant Italian aristocrat Ricci ventures west

Count Franco Maria Ricci, a flamboyant Italian aristocrat, has turned good taste into good business in his home country. Now, reports Alan Friedman, he is planning his most audacious venture yet—a \$4 million launch into the U.S. art publishing market.

Count Franco Maria Ricci answered the door of his house in a white bathrobe and slippers, looking dishevelled and bleary-eyed and very unlike the man who is masterminding what he calls the most unorthodox marketing debut in American publishing history.

It was nearly midday, but Mr. Ricci said he had been up until the small hours of the morning, working on his plans to spend \$4 million to foist on an unsuspecting American public close to eight million free copies of his glossy art magazine, known appropriately as FMR.

A few moments later, having shaved and dressed, the flamboyant Ricci returned, pausing in his exquisitely decorated sitting room to ask Abdul, his manservant, to bring some white wine and mineral water. Then, chain-smoking a mixture of American and Indian cigarettes, he talked for two hours about what is clearly the love of his life, publishing "beautiful" books and art magazines.

He calls himself, without worrying about modesty, "Italy's best designer and publisher" and most of his legions of jetsetting friends

and subscribers appear to agree. He admits, in the most nonchalant manner, that "FMR is an elite magazine for elite tastes". He terms his two-year-old venture "the most beautiful magazine in the world".

At first sight one might be tempted to think of Mr. Ricci as yet another high-living Italian count whose predilections for fast women and fast cars must preclude any serious activity. But the 46-year-old Ricci, born of an old aristocratic family (his great-grandfather was the military adviser to a Savoy King who invented Italy's carabinieri), is actually engaged in a most audacious and expensive marketing gamble in that most challenging of markets, the United States. And just in case anyone accuses him of using his name and connections to drum up financial support for his admittedly eccentric venture, he stresses that he is investing \$1 million of his own money as well.

A further \$2.6 million of funding for the June launch of FMR's U.S. edition has come from more than a hundred corporate contributions. Mentioned, the Italian chemicals giant which is itself

swimming in debt, has given \$500,000. Other major contributors include Alitalia, Alfa Romeo, Vaserati, Nuovo Banco Ambrosiano, the ENI state energy group and the regional governments of Tuscany and Lombardy.

But what kind of man can attract this kind of support, when his critics call him crazy, elitist or downright mad? A geologist by training, Mr. Ricci spent his early years winning an Italian motor racing championship and then travelling for four months of 1962 around Turkey prospecting on behalf of Gulf Oil. He soon tired of "travelling around in a jeep with a driver and a cook" and left the company.

In 1963 his mother gave him \$20 million (\$12,400), and told him to go and buy a Ferrari. But instead of buying a car he decided to buy two old printing presses and hired a retired printer in Parma to fulfil his first major publishing aspiration—the reproduction of an esoteric 18th century typographer's manual by Giambattista Bodoni. Mr. Ricci not only went ahead with the venture but recouped his investment by selling 400 copies at \$500 apiece.

He very quickly gained acceptance as a connoisseur of obs-

cure art and typography and soon had the director of Washington's Library of Congress rushing out to Dulles airport to pick him up. In 1967 he had special editions of a book signed by the Pope as part of a benefit for then-flooded Florence.

"I wanted to be romantic and emotional and discover forgotten artists. It would have been stupid to do Raphael and Michelangelo again," he recounts. So in 1967 he established the Ricci Collectors Club, a kind of book club which now has 37,000 members who buy things like his \$5,000 leather-bound sets of 18th century encyclopaedia.

But his greatest dream of all was to start a monthly magazine, which he did two years ago, calling it FMR. The first issue sold 120,000 copies on Italian newsstands and today, after reproducing eclectic collections of tapestries, sculptures and baroque palaces, FMR is ready for its American launch.

The goal is to achieve 100,000 subscriptions out of the eight million 16-page giveaway copies, half of which will be sent by direct mail and the rest included in editions of the New York Times, Washington Post and other newspapers. Although the promotional copies are

still being distributed Mr. Ricci says he has 10,000 U.S. orders already, which have resulted not from the eight million giveaways, but from advertising in the U.S. co-ordinated by agents Ogilvy and Mather.

The U.S. edition is budgeted to break even at 50,000 copies, which would represent a customer response of one-half of 1 per cent of the recipients of the eight million copies. Mr. Ricci has already sold half the advertising space for the first 10 issues, representing 180 pages of advertising at \$8,000 a page, or \$1.4 million. He says the ratio of ads to editorial will be one of four, no more than 40 pages per 160-page edition.

With his staff of 35, including a handful of editors working from Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mr. Ricci will print in Italy and ship the magazines to America each month. He claims this is less costly and assures quality control.

Mr. Ricci makes a point of stressing that he is not a "businessman" and says he does not wish to judge his success by anything as vulgar as money. But he admits that he needs money "to do the things I want to". Thus far the gods (and his friends) have smiled and in 1983 Mr. Ricci's various publishing ventures produced

a turnover of L10 billion and pre-tax profits of L300 million. The profits, which amount to less than \$190,000, are hardly impressive.

With more than 150 books under his belt, six new titles a year and publications in Italian, English, French and Portuguese, what is next? There are already ten Ricci bookshops in Italy (selling only Ricci books and magazines) and outlets in Paris, Geneva and Brussels. New bookshops are planned for New York and London within the next year and then the Ricci bandwagon is supposed to roll in France, West Germany, Spain and Japan.

Mr. Ricci admits that he has a slight image problem ("I have the image of being a social person") but claims he prefers working late into the night on his magazine to "drinking wine".

And so the Marchese shuttles about the world preparing his "Operation Columbus". His days of car racing and frivolity are well in the past, he insists, pointing to a rather dusty little Volkswagen outside his house as proof. "The 'E' type Jaguar is in the warehouse. It has been there for seven years now," he explains, with only a slight trace of nostalgia—Financial Times news feature.

A city can grow its own food

By Laurie Wayburn

MEXICO CITY — What do the "shambas" of Nairobi, the "kebele" of Addis Ababa, the "volkstunjes" of Amsterdam and the allotments of Boston and London have in common?

In among the skyscrapers, the residents of each of these cities are growing their own food in city gardens of the various different names. The practice offers hope for the 360 million under-crowned urban poor.

There are currently 26 cities in the world with more than five million inhabitants. By the year 2000, 320 billion of the world's people will live in 60 major cities. Some 600 million of these will be poor and hungry.

Cities are thought of as non-productive and vulnerable systems dependent on the countryside for food, fuel and raw materials. Yet Shanghai, population 11 million, produces 100 per cent of its fresh vegetables. Hong Kong, with very little land, produces 42 per cent of its greens. Some 13 per cent of Singapore's surface area provides 30 per cent of the city's vegetables and fish and 80 per cent of its chickens. During World War II, urban "victory gardens" in the U.S. supplied 40 per cent of the nation's fresh produce.

The ancient Greeks and Romans commonly grew salad crops on balconies and window sills. In the 17th century, the Parisian "marais", or marshland gardens, were producing over 100,000 tonnes of salad crops each year. Pre-Columbian Central America developed a system of urban gardens called "chinampas" which still exists in Mexico City.

It has been estimated that as much as two thirds of urban food requirements could be supplied by well-developed city garden programmes.

The Mayaguez Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Puerto Rico found that a circular garden six metres in diameter could produce 167 kilograms of vegetables, root crops and greens in an eight-month growing season. Experimental gardens in California produce 37-65 grammes of protein and up to 2,500 calories per day on only 127 square metres (1,370 square feet) of land.

Urban gardens can be most effective just where the need is greatest, in the burgeoning cities of the Third World. Most such cities are in the humid tropical zones and have the advantage of a long or continuous growing season.

Over two dozen major Third World cities have already launched urban agricultural programmes. In Addis Ababa, community-administered "kebele"

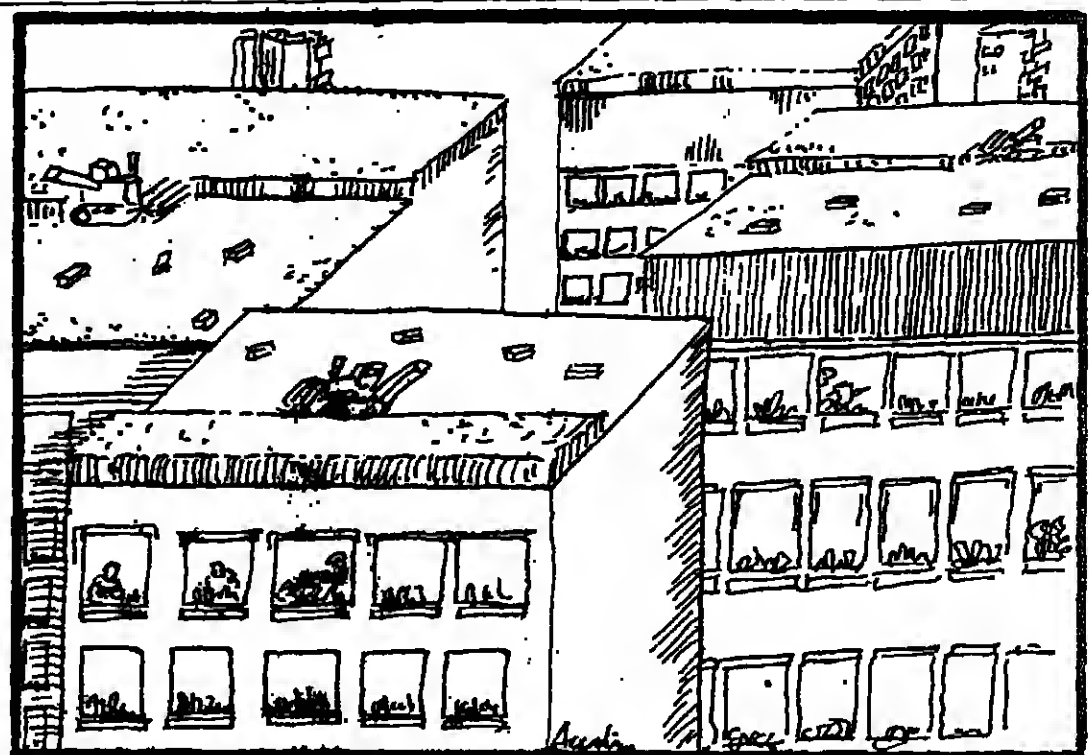
lands are divided into plots and allocated to the poor and unemployed for cultivation. Dhaka in Bangladesh has initiated a "Green Belt Around the City" pilot programme: small farms and gardens are to be established in the urban fringe area.

With help from U.N. agencies, the city of Lae in Papua New Guinea started a programme for urban food self-sufficiency in 1977. Vegetable gardens, tree planting and nutritional education programmes were established. Over 1,500 gardens of up to 200 square metres are under cultivation. The import and export of foodstuffs is regulated to encourage home production.

In the same year Lusaka began an Urban Agriculture and Nutrition Project with aid from UNICEF and the American Friends Service Committee.

Since 1978, owners of unused land in Manila are obliged to cultivate it or forfeit it to any other person willing to grow food on it. As a result, a number of Community gardens have been established. One of these, in the Matalahib district, supplied 800 squatter families with 80 per cent of their vegetables from an area of 1,500 sq m. (This garden was later destroyed to make way for a warehouse).

Many cities contain vast tracts of potentially productive derelict



land. There is estimated to be 40,000 hectares (99,000 acres) of such land in London, and over 70,000 hectares (173,000 acres) in New York. More than one third of Rio de Janeiro's land is vacant. But even where space is limited, cities can approach self-sufficiency in produce, as both Singapore and Hong Kong have shown.

Most of the world's cities are built on fertile ground, often on plains or in river valleys with rich alluvial soil. Guaranteed access to the soil for the urban poor and unemployed is the first step towards food-producing cities.

The problems of urban agriculture are not much different from those of the rural variety. Once access to land, water and seed has been provided, the trick is to increase production. In Hong Kong, a government agricultural service researches new intensive

urban growing techniques and high-yield crops.

Rural migrants to cities account for 40 per cent of the current urban population increase. Their unemployed numbers can provide a workforce by means of which cities can become self-sufficient in food. With the cost of imported foodstuffs set to rise by 95 per cent in the next 15 years, urban agriculture could provide a lifeline for those cities—Earthscan feature.

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Champions Spain drawn with U.S.

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — Favourites the United States with their team of John McEnroe, Jimmy Arias and Peter Fleming were drawn Monday in the same group as title-holders Spain for next week's World Team Tennis Cup.

The eight-nation \$531,000 tournament has attracted its strongest ever field this year with five of the world's top seven singles players taking part.

Teams are divided into two groups of four for a round-robin tournament of two singles and a doubles per match. The group winners meet in the final on May 27.

McEnroe crushes Lendl

NEW YORK (R) — John McEnroe, the world's leading tennis player, heads for Europe with a new-found mastery on clay vividly demonstrated in a commanding win in the Tournament of Champions here Sunday.

The 25-year-old American, unbeaten this year, crushed Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia 6-4, 6-2, a victory made all the more impressive in view of Lendl's 6-0, 6-0 defeat of McEnroe's compatriot Jimmy Connors in the semifinals.

McEnroe appears to have overcome the nagging injuries which have plagued his career and seems also to have finally mastered the on-court tantrums which often eclipsed his talent.

McEnroe strengthened his position as the world's number one player by winning his seventh title and 32nd consecutive match of the year Sunday.

Saying he was stronger and healthier than ever before, McEnroe defended his Tournament of Champions singles title with an overpowering serve and volley game which left his rival baffled and dejected.

His stylish victory at the West Side Tennis Club carried added weight because Lendl had handed Jimmy Connors the first 6-0, 6-0 defeat of his career in the semifinals.

More important to McEnroe, however, was the fact that he can enter the French Open two weeks from now secure in the knowledge that he is nearly as aggressive and effective on clay as he is on grass or indoor surfaces.

"There are probably six or seven players capable of winning the French Open and I feel that I am one of them," he said.

McEnroe has won Wimbledon twice and the U.S. Open three times but he has never succeeded in Paris.

Lendl was most impressed with the U.S. left-hander's fine play on the relatively fast clay surface here and felt McEnroe would be a threat on the red clay of the Roland Garros stadium.

"There is no question that he is the best serve and volleyer in the game," Lendl, 24, told reporters after his fourth consecutive loss to McEnroe this year.

"It is obvious that he is playing well enough to have a chance at the French."

McEnroe himself attributed his new level of play to improved physical strength and health.

"I'm free of injuries these days and I feel that physically I'm coming into my prime," the Wimbledon champion said. "I hope that my best results will come in the next two to four years."

Bahrain sacks soccer coach

BAHRAIN (R) — The Bahrain Football Association has sacked its Brazilian coach, Sebastiao Araujo, after poor team performances during last month's Olympic qualifying games in Singapore and a Gulf tournament.

The association announced Sunday night that the contracts of Sebastiao, in Bahrain for three years, and his Brazilian assistant Celso Barros had been terminated.

Association secretary Jamil Al

Jishi told the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency the decision followed poor showings in March's Gulf tournament in Oman and the Olympic qualifier.

Saudi Arabia dismissed its Brazilian coach, Mario Zagallo, after the Gulf tournament, and led by a new Saudi coach, later qualified in Singapore for the Los Angeles Olympics.

Bahrain's performances in Singapore were dull and they failed to qualify for the Olympics.

Carl Lewis fails to break long jump record at U.S. meet

LOS ANGELES (R) — American Carl Lewis won the long jump but failed in his quest to break the world record at an athletics meeting in which three Czechoslovaks competed, one day after their country announced its withdrawal from the Los Angeles Olympics.

Lewis won with a leap of 8.71 metres. It was his first attempt of the year to break fellow American Bob Beamon's world record of 8.90 metres, set at the 1968 Olympics at Mexico City.

Lewis, 22, appeared to have broken the record on the third of his six jumps but a judge ruled he had fouled.

The 12,500 spectators at the

University of California at Los Angeles warmly applauded the Czechoslovaks, and Imrich Buga won the discus throw with a toss of 68.16 metres. Compatriot Geza Valenti was second at 66.02 metres.

In other events, American Edwin Moses won his 88th straight 400-metre intermediate hurdles with a time of 48.71 seconds.

American Greg Foster ran the 110-metre high hurdles in 13.21 seconds, the fastest time in the world so far this year.

Mary Decker of the United States won the women's mile in 70 minutes, 22.92 seconds.

Decision irrevocable, says Soviet Olympic chief

LONDON (R) — The Soviet Union Monday dashed western hopes that it might still compete at the Los Angeles Summer Olympic Games by declaring that its decision not to send a team was irrevocable.

At a Moscow press conference that western diplomats said was clearly intended to be the Soviet Union's final word on its Olympic plans, Soviet National Olympic committee president Marat Gromov announced: "Our decision not to attend is irrevocable."

Los Angeles Olympic Games organising chief Peter Ueberroth, grimacing as he watched a televised live broadcast of the press conference, said: "I think they are

very serious about not participating."

But Ueberroth said in Los Angeles: "If most of the rest of the world attends, then there will be a great games."

In another development, China confirmed that it will send a team to the Olympics, where nationalist-ruled Taiwan will also compete, ending a 35-year feud over who represents China.

Seven other countries have joined the Soviet Union in refusing to take part. Afghanistan Sunday added its name to those of East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Laos, Vietnam and Mongolia.

Cruyff quits soccer

ROTTERDAM (R) — Cruyff, the most gifted soccer player to come out of the Netherlands, has announced his retirement.

The 37-year-old midfielder international, who won the European Footballer of the Year award three times in the early 1970s, played his final match for Feyenoord Sunday.

Cruyff helped Feyenoord to a league and cup double this season after signing a one-year contract with the club when arch rivals Ajax failed to renew his contract.

In an interview published in the Dutch daily de Telegraaf, Cruyff said: "I don't know whether to be dismal or glad about my decision. Maybe I will regret it later."

"But I am afraid of having too little energy to help Feyenoord stay at the top for another season."

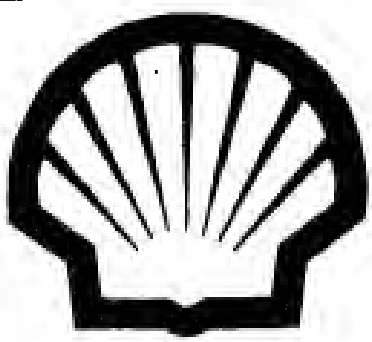
Feyenoord chairman Gerard Kerkum called Cruyff's decision "a black day for Feyenoord and Dutch soccer."

Cruyff began his career as a 17-year-old with Ajax, moving to Spanish club Barcelona in 1973.

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ملفكم وزارة العمل رقم ١٧١/٨٢ تاريخ ١٥/٥/٨٤

German metalworkers start unlimited strike

STUTTGART, West Germany (R)—The first unlimited strike by West German workers in support of a 35-hour week began Monday when 13,000 employees downed tools in the key car component sector.

Employers' leaders have said the country's car industry could be brought to a standstill within days.

Union officials said there was total support for the strike which began without incident with Monday's early morning shift at 14 selected plants in the Stuttgart area. A union spokesman said: "We have no reports to strike-breakers."

Leaders of the Metalworkers' Union were meeting in Stuttgart later to decide whether to extend the stoppages to the state of Hesse, which includes the major industrial city of Frankfurt.

The union so far has the authority to call out more than a quarter of a million workers.

The strike which hit 14 selected plants in the area of the southern city of Stuttgart was in support of union demands for a five-hour cut in the working week, currently 40 hours excluding meal breaks.

The action is likely to bite quickly as the motor industry carries low stocks.

The 10 firms affected include Schmidt AG and Mahle GMBH, which supply the entire motor industry with pistons, and the giant Bosch electrical concern, which makes car batteries, lights and ignition systems.

The metalworkers argue that a cut in hours would help reduce West Germany's 2.4 million unemployed but employers and the centre-right government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl say it is a folly that would wreck economic recovery.

The powerful IG Metall Trades Union, which has 2.5 million members, has called the strike a "warning shot" and said it was ready for a long battle if necessary.

Regan reports progress in U.S.-Japanese market talks

WASHINGTON (R)—Talks between the United States and Japan on opening up Japan's financial markets are going well, according to U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan.



Donald Regan

At a news conference, he recalled that at an economic summit in Williamsburg, Virginia last year he and Japanese Finance Minister Noboru Takeshita were asked to produce a plan by the time of the next summit, in London next month.

U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Beryl Sprinkel and Japanese Vice-Minister of Finance Tomomitsu Oba started their most recent talks in Honolulu early last week, Mr. Regan said.

"I'm very happy to report today that I had a call from Beryl Sprinkel yesterday from Tokyo saying that the negotiations had gone very well," Mr. Regan said.

"I'm relieved to find that we can work with the Japanese on opening up the Japanese markets and internationalising the yen," he added.

The negotiators will draft their report in Rome later this week and next and submit it to him and Mr. Takeshita, Mr. Regan said, adding: "I'm reasonably confident now that we are moving ahead well on this subject."

Asked about the large U.S. trade deficit, Mr. Regan replied: "What I'm looking at primarily is the relationship between the yen and the dollar."

"One of the reasons we think the yen is so weak vis-a-vis the

dollar is that it is not really an international currency," he said.

He added that Japan was now the second largest trading country in the world, and "we think its currency should be the second largest in usage. It's not, and accordingly that's why we have been entering these discussions."

Washington believes that if there were demand for the yen it would strengthen in relation to the dollar, he said.

"If that happens, we would import less from them and export more to them," he added.

"Ultimately this could be very helpful to our balance of trade—the internationalisation of the yen and the opening up of the financial markets in Japan to our service companies."

"If our banks, our brokerage firms, our other financial institutions are allowed to compete within Japan for business and to have business there, they will improve this overall current account deficit that we have had," Mr. Regan said.

Soviet industrial output up 4.5 per cent

MOSCOW (R)—Soviet industrial production in the first four months of this year was 4.9 per cent up on the same period last year, but oil output was below plan levels, the Communist Party daily Pravda reported Monday.

Labour productivity rose by 4.6 per cent during the same period.

The paper gave no figures for oil production, but other reports have made clear that it has fallen below plan targets every month since last September and blamed increasing difficulties in extracting oil from western Siberian fields.

Pravda also reported that production of mineral fertiliser was below plan targets, a shortcoming that could have serious effect on the size and quality of the 1984 grain harvest.

Debt issue hangs over London summit

RAMBOUILLET, France (R)—No quick solutions to the global debt crisis are likely to be found despite agreement among European Community finance ministers that it should be tackled next month by the seven western nation economic summit.

This was the general consensus among finance ministers from the 10-nation trading bloc who ended two-days of informal talks here Sunday ahead of the London summit on June 7 to 9.

The debt issue has been thrust to the forefront by a recent sharp rise in U.S. interest rates, adding hundreds of millions of dollars to the debt payments of developing countries.

French Finance Minister Jacques Delors has told reporters here that the interest rate rise and the subsequent increase in the dollar's international value would have a "truly dramatic" economic effect on the community and on developing countries.

The problem provides a sombre

background to a busy week of high-level talks between finance ministers, central bankers and senior officials from non-Communist industrialised countries.

This Wednesday, May 16, deputy finance ministers of the so-called "group of ten" leading industrialised countries will meet in Paris to discuss French proposals for strengthening international financial bodies.

Sources at the Rambouillet talks said the Paris meeting would provide first evidence of whether consensus can be reached in this U.S. presidential election year over the level of finance necessary to maintain global economic recovery.

The annual ministerial meeting of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) takes place in Paris on May 17/18 to review the progress of the world economic recovery.

And next Saturday, May 19, group of ten finance ministers will

meet in Rome to discuss policy measures to maintain international financial stability. The main focal point for the Rome talks will be the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in September.

Mr. Delors, who chaired this weekend's talks, emphasised the group's role in the search for solutions to the debt crisis.

He told reporters the group had played a major role in getting agreement on last year's increase in resources for the International Monetary Fund, despite initial U.S. objections.

The group comprises 11 countries after Switzerland's recent decision to become a full member, and includes the Netherlands, Belgium and Sweden as well as the seven countries whose government leaders are due to meet at the June summit—the United States, Japan, West Germany, Canada, Britain, France, and Italy.

French union confronts government over job cuts

By Chris Peterson

Reuter

PARIS — The Communist-led CGT, France's biggest trade union, has again chosen the car industry as the battleground for a clash with President Francois Mitterrand's government on industrial policy, only week after the cracks in the Socialist-Communist alliance were patched over.

Several hundred workers, mainly CGT members, have since Friday been occupying the Citroen car plant at Aulnay near Paris in protest against a company plan to trim 6,000 jobs from its nationwide workforce.

Union leaders were quick to make it clear the occupation, which they said involved up to 3,000 workers, was also directed against the government's plans to offer financial repatriation aid to thousands of immigrant workers

mainly from North Africa—who make up the backbone of France's automobile industry.

Andre Sainjon, who heads the auto workers' section in the CGT, said: "We want negotiations opened not only with the management but the government, not only over the job cuts but over the future of each individual worker."

Union sources said it was clear the CGT had decided on the occupation in order to gain a strong bargaining hand in what they see as a test case over redundancy and repatriation.

They also said the CGT did not want to repetition of the scenes at the Talbot plant at Poissy, also near Paris, last December when striking workers fought pitched battles on the factory floor with employees wanting to work.

The timing of the occupation was also significant: It came less than 24 hours after Citroen, which is part of the privately-owned Peugeot Group, offered its immigrant workers extra money on top of the government allowance to go home.

Under the government scheme, workers ready to return home would get an average of \$5,000 (francs \$10,000). Citroen has offered an extra 15,000 francs (\$1,765).

Industry sources said that out of 7,500 Citroen workers questioned so far on the repatriation scheme, only five per cent have said they would accept.

Union sources said they believed Aulnay had been chosen as a place to confront the government's overall industrial policies because it had a high immigrant content in its workforce—4,000 out of the 5,000 on the shop-

floor—and because, 1,787 jobs would go there under Citroen's nationwide redundancy plan.

The plant produces a total of about 1,400 cars a day—mainly the CX, Visa and LVA models.

The occupation came only weeks after the Socialists, led up with criticism and outright defiance by their junior Communist partners over industrial and social policy, called a vote of confidence in the National Assembly.

The move was seen as a blunt request to the Communist Party, which has had four ministers in the government ever since the left's electoral triumph three years ago, to re-affirm publicly its support or leave the government.

In the event the Communists did vote with the government but made it quite clear they reserved the right to criticise policies in the future.

By Harris

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HARRIS

"Uncle Stanley, did Humpty Dumpty really fall off the wall or do you think he was fingered by a hit man?"

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Tamil separatists order release of U.S. couple

NEW DELHI (R) — A Sri Lankan separatist group has ordered guerrillas to release a kidnapped newly-wed American couple they had threatened to kill Monday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

PTI issued the report minutes after a 6 p.m. (1230 GMT) deadline set by the Tamil guerrillas expired.

In a report from the South Indian city of Madras, PTI said the central committee of the Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) had ordered the release of the couple, Stanley and Mary Allen, abducted in northern Sri Lanka on Thursday.

Militant Tamil sources earlier told Reuters in Madras that the EPRLF was an umbrella organisation whose military wing was called the Peoples Liberation Army (PLA).

The kidnappers have said they belong to the PLA, one of several guerrilla organisations waging a hit-and-run war against the Colombo government for an independent state for Sri Lanka's

minority Tamil community.

Earlier Monday, guerrillas holding the Allens told the Sri Lankan authorities they would kill one hostage at 6 p.m. and the other six hours later unless their demands were met.

They issued the new threat in a letter banded to an official in the northern Sri Lankan district of Jaffna — where the Allens were abducted — as the first deadline set for noon (0630 GMT) Monday expired.

The guerrillas had threatened to kill the Allens, from Columbus, Ohio, unless the Sri Lankan authorities freed 200 jailed separatists and handed over a 50 million rupee (\$two million) ransom in gold.

Mr. Allen, a 36-year-old engineer, had worked in Jaffna for six months on a water management

project. He married his 29-year-old wife on March 24.

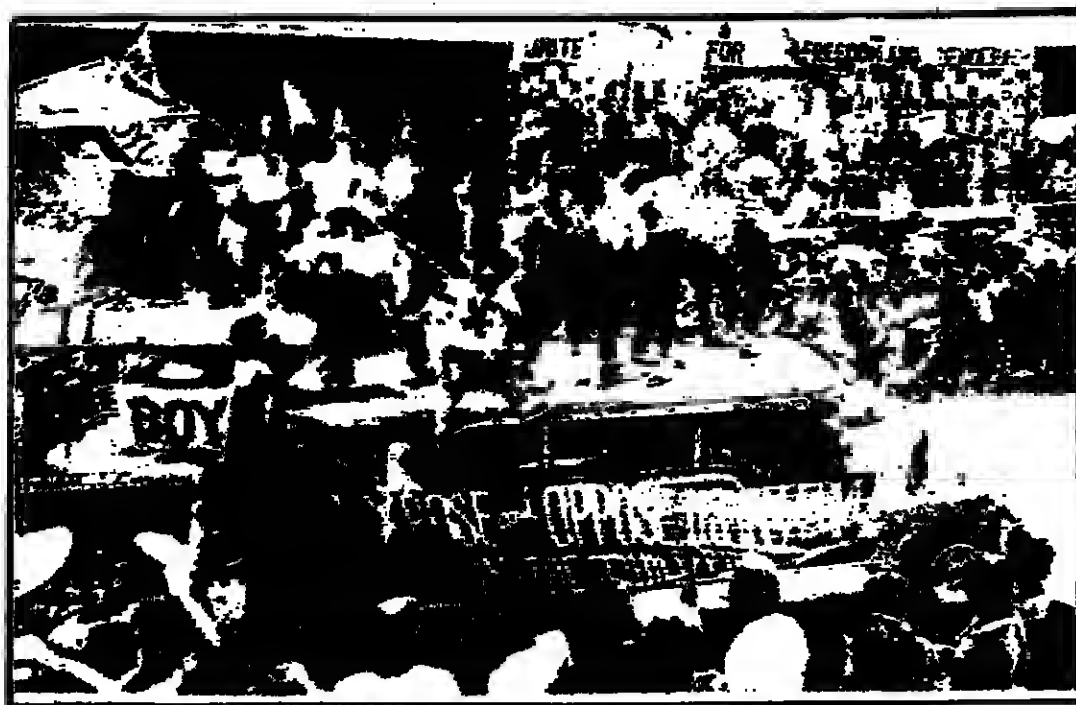
PTI gave no further details in its initial report from Madras, capital of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu and home for many Sri Lankan Tamils living there as refugees or political exiles.

There was no immediate word from either the U.S. embassy in New Delhi or the Indian government to the PTI report that the Allens could be freed.

PTI said the EPRLF issued a statement in Madras signed by K. Pathmanabha, the organisation's secretary-general. It said the group hoped the Sri Lankan government would make what it called a matching gesture by releasing Tamil detainees.

There has been no trace of the Allens since they were seized from the bedroom of their Jaffna home on Thursday night as they settled down with soft drinks and popcorn to watch a video film.

They were hustled away by gunmen to a waiting van but the EPRLF has not said where they were being held.



More than 10,000 people parade in Manila Sunday, in the biggest rally of the campaign period, to advocate a boycott of the Monday elections for the Philippines National Assembly (AP wirephoto).

14 Filipinos die on election day

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Despite a boycott campaign, widespread allegations of fraud and continuing violence, millions of Filipinos voted Monday in an election testing the political strength of President Ferdinand Marcos.

At least 14 people died on election day and 26 others died in two incidents on election eve.

Results were trickling in from the 84,265 polling stations where people voted to fill 183 seats in the National Assembly. There were 25 million eligible voters. The polls began closing at 4 p.m. Manila time (0800 GMT), an hour earlier than usual, to avoid the danger of after-dark counting.

Official results were not expected for many hours, possibly days. But independent election tallies were being made by several groups.

Police with truncheons broke

up a rally in a Manila suburb by several hundred urban workers supporting a boycott of the election. Eleven were arrested, police said.

In election day violence, Communist rebels killed six soldiers escorting poll officials on Negros Island, the Philippine News Agency reported. Six policemen responding to election trouble in a remote neighbourhood in Camarines Sur province, south of Manila, also were ambushed, local military officials said.

A sketchy military report said a policeman was killed in Zamboanga on southern Mindanao Island.

Several thousand people advocating an election boycott to protest against Mr. Marcos marched in the southern cities of Bacolod and Cebu on election morning, but election officials and ob-

servers said at midday voting was brisk across the islands.

So was the cheating, said government critics and some independent poll watchers.

There were reports from varying sources of stolen ballot boxes, bullying of voters, phony ballots, illegal campaigning and indecipherable ink that wasn't so indecipherable.

Gen. Fidel Ramos, Philippine constabulary chief, insisted, however, that conduct of the polls would be "clean and credible."

Mr. Marcos said he would be surprised if 30 seats, barely 15 per cent of those at stake, went to his opponents. His wife, Imelda, predicted a "clean sweep" for the Marcoses' Kulusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL-New Society Movement) in metropolitan Manila, where she has campaigned for 21 government candidates.

Indian troops kill 2 Bangladeshis

DHAKA (R) — Two people were killed when Indian troops fired on a Bangladesh village in the latest conflict over India's plan to build a fence along its border, Dhaka newspapers reported Monday.

The papers said the two men were shot Sunday while working in field next to their homes in the western Bangladesh border village of Garura.

Their bodies were later taken away by the Indian Border Security Forces, the papers said.

The official BSS News Agency quoted informed sources as saying India was installing machine guns along the frontier between Assam state and Bangladesh, the scene of recent border skirmishes.

A Bangladeshi soldier was killed and an Indian officer wounded

when border guards exchanged fire last month.

The shooting erupted when Bangladesh soldiers stopped an Indian working party placing barbed wire along the border.

Commanders of the two countries' border forces held a meeting early this month at Haridwar, India, on ways of ending border conflicts.

6 towns under curfew in Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — Six major towns were put under curfew to head off violence during protest strikes Monday which shut most shops and offices in Punjab and two neighbouring states.

The strike, called by right wing Hindu groups to condemn the Sikh extremist killing of a leading Hindu newspaper editor on Saturday, brought life in the three states to a virtual halt, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

Paramilitary troops were out in strength in Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh states to enforce orders banning marches and assembly of more than five people.

Tension was high in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar where a Hindu priest and a Sikh priest were killed in separate incidents Sunday night.

Amritsar and the towns of Voga, Faridkot, Ludhiana, Jullundur and Patiala were clamped under curfew until Tuesday.

Ramesh Chander, owner and editor-in-chief of the Hind Samachar group of newspapers, was gunned down in Ludhiana on Saturday — meeting the same fate as his father who was killed by extremists three years ago.

Mr. Chander's eldest son, Ashwani Vinna, vowed in the group's newspapers Monday to complete his father and grandfather's task of promoting communal harmony.

"So I have taken up the pen of my father and I swear by him and my grandfather that while I and other members of the family are alive we will continue to fight and strive for Hindu-Sikh unity, integration of the country and truth," Mr. Vinna wrote in a front-page editorial.

Since Mr. Chander's murder, the third killing of a Punjab journalist this year, several riots have erupted during protest meetings.

But PTI said there were no reports so far of violence during Monday's strike in Sikh-majority Punjab and Hindu-majority Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

Chandigarh, capital of both Punjab and Haryana states, also was affected with only government offices operating.

COLUMN

4 people share New York lottery

NEW YORK (R) — Lottery officials have found four winning tickets whose holders will share \$22.1 million, the biggest lottery jackpot in North American history, a New York State Lottery spokesman said Sunday. Spokesman George Yan said the winning ticket held would each receive \$5.525 million over 21 years. Mr. Yan said earlier the odds favoured several possible winners among the more than 24 million tickets bought in Saturday night's draw. The winning tickets were determined by computer check. Mr. Yan said one of the tickets was sold in the Bronx, one in suburban Nassau county and one each in the upper New York counties of Ulster and Munroe.

Thatcher meets son's girlfriend, family

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher hosted lunch Sunday for her son Mark's Texas girlfriend Karen Fortson, and her mother but the men were secret — and so was any discussion of a possible wedding.

It was the first meeting for Mrs. Thatcher and Karen Fortson, wife of Fort Worth ranching millionaire Ben Fortson, and afterwards there were plenty of comments about the unusually gorgeous weather and beautiful English countryside — but nothing about a possible engagement. "It's too early to say at the moment, but we are very good friends," said Miss Fortson, 24, before flying back to Paris to continue a European holiday. "I'm seeing Mark in a couple of days but I really don't know where that will be — Europe or America."

Mother, daughter and twin brother, Ben Jr., flew here for lunch with Mrs. Thatcher and her husband, Denis, at Chequers, the country home of British prime ministers in rural Buckinghamshire northwest of the capital. "Everything was very nice," said Mrs. Fortson. "Mrs. Thatcher was delightful and charming. She was very warm, very friendly, and I didn't find it at all nerve-racking." Did they sit down to an American or an English meal? "It's a secret," said Miss Fortson. "I just don't know the difference. But I enjoyed it anyway."

spaper questioned whether Mr. Hampson would have resigned had the matter not been about to become public knowledge in the press.

In an editorial entitled "why the delay?", it said: "... The obvious implication is that either the police were dilatory or the Home Office (Interior Ministry) procrastinated in the hope that the embarrassment could be swept under the carpet."

"Answers, please. And this time any reticence for reasons of 'national security' won't wash."

Mr. Hampson, 40, was charged after his arrest on May 3, but was freed on bail pending reports to police lawyers. He resigned on Saturday, saying he wanted to avoid embarrassing the government and Mr. Heseltine.

He said: "This is because of personal problems resulting from one night a week or so ago when I was totally fed up and drank far too much."

Gay Theatre Manager Russell McLeod was quoted in newspapers Monday as saying Mr. Hampson was a regular visitor, along with some other unnamed members of parliament. He also accused police of a general practice of provoking his customers into offences.

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Namibia peace re note after failure of talks

LUSAKA (R) — Peace in Namibia (South West Africa) appeared as remote as ever Monday after the failure of an all-party conference to agree on the implementation of a ceasefire and independence settlement for the disputed territory.

The meeting had been billed as an historic opportunity to solve the lingering problem of Namibia, which South Africa rules in defiance of the United Nations.

It was attended by South African officials, the black nationalist guerrilla movement SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation) and representatives of six of the territory's internal parties.

Closing three days of intense discussions, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said Sunday night that it had been impossible to produce a joint agreement.

He gave no reason for the failure but the internal parties which make up Namibia's Multi-Party Conference (MPC) grouping swiftly blamed SWAPO.

MPC spokesman Dirk Mudge

said the guerrilla movement had declined to sign a conference document which would have produced a ceasefire and "the commencement of process" leading to the implementation of a U.N. independence plan for the territory.

"SWAPO had no sincere desire to come to an agreement," he told reporters.

There was no immediate confirmation from the guerrilla movement.

SWAPO has been fighting South Africa in a bush war for Namibian independence for nearly 18 years. It has repeatedly called on South Africa to sign a ceasefire agreement as a prelude to independence elections in the territory as envisaged in U.N. Security Council Resolution 435.

It was not immediately known whether the conference document deviated from its demand.

The Lusaka conference was marked by continuing deep division between SWAPO and the MPC, a rift the talks had been designed to bridge.

Gandhi, Bush continue talks

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi told U.S. Vice President George Bush Monday that U.S. sales of sophisticated weapons to rival Pakistan would upset the military balance and lead to an arms race in the region.

The two leaders conferred alone for two hours about the international situation, including India-Pakistan relations, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the Iran-Iraq war.

The United News of India, reporting on the talks, said Mrs. Gandhi raised the problem of U.S. arms sales to Pakistan, India frequently complains that arming Pakistan destabilises the region and it says the weapons could be used against India.

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Tremor rocks Yugoslavian coastline

BELGRADE (R) — A strong earthquake along Yugoslavia's Adriatic coastline Sunday caused cracks in buildings and triggered landslides in which at least one person was killed, the official media reported.

Tanjung News Agency said the tremor measured 5.5 on the Richter Scale and was centred in an

area 100 kilometres south of the Western city of Sarajevo. The only victim immediately reported was a 60-year-old woman killed when her car was hit by falling rocks, it said.

Belgrade Radio said the tremor was felt the length of Yugoslavia's Adriatic coastline south from the resort of Split and on offshore islands.

7 die in South African refinery attack

DURBAN (R) — Seven people died early Monday after a four-hour gun battle between police and four men suspected of launching a rocket attack on a South African oil refinery Sunday night, police said.

The four, one coloured (mixed race) and three black men, were cornered by police in a factory following a high-speed car chase after three rocket-propelled grenades were fired at the Mobil Refinery in Durban.

The charred bodies of three other people were found after a paint store caught fire during the clash with the four. A police spokesman said it was not thought the

three were connected with the attack.

Mobil officials were not available for comment but a police spokesman said damage to the refinery, which was still operating, consisted of broken gas and water pipes.

The police said it was not clear if the four suspected guerrillas died because of police gunfire or as a result of blasts from hand grenades they were carrying.

A white policeman shot in the head during the exchanges of gunfire was in a serious condition in hospital.

On Saturday a bomb exploded

in government offices here causing damage to the building but no injuries.

Similar attacks in the past, including explosions at fuel dumps in the north and east of Johannesburg over the past few months, have usually been blamed by officials on the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) guerrilla group.

The ANC, which has pledged to overthrow white minority rule in South Africa, claimed responsibility for a bomb in the state capital Pretoria last May which killed 19 people and injured more than 200.

UNITA threatens to attack civilian airliners

LUANDA, Angola (AP) — Rebels fighting the Marxist Angolan government say they will step up attacks on civilian airliners, which they claim to have initiated last Nov. 8 by knocking a Boeing 737 of the national airlines out of the sky.

Angolan civilian airlines are legitimate targets because the cash-short government uses aircraft of TAAG, of Linhas Aereas de Angola, to ferry troops around the southwest African nation, according to Col. Wambu Kasigu, military intelligence chief of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

On Saturday Col. Kasigu talked with reporters at this dusty UNITA headquarters and supply base in southwest Angola near the borders with Zambia and South-West Africa.

The 26-year-old Col. Kasigu said in an interview that UNITA plans in coming months to shift from hit-and-run attacks on small towns and provincial centres to "guerrilla warfare where we fight from inside the enemy's cities."

Asked if this included more attacks on airlines, such as the one claimed in November, he said in English:

"Yes, this is guerrilla war... it fits into the pattern of classic guer-

rilla fighting. The enemy used the planes to transport soldiers. It uses war planes to attack civilians in the towns we control."

It was never known with certainty how many people died in the crash of the TAAG jet. The 737 carries between 115 and 130 passengers, depending upon the seating configuration, Angola, which said all the victims were civilians, blamed the incident on pilot error.

UNITA, claiming the aircraft carried soldiers and war supplies, said it hit the plane with a shoulder-fired, heat-seeking missile fired by a guerrilla hiding near the runway. The plane was lifting off from Lubango, about 910 kilometres south of Luanda.

A tour of a UNITA arsenal at Jamba showed the movement possesses Soviet-made Sam-7, hand-carried rocket launchers designed to home in on the hot exhaust of a jet. In need-proofed, mud-floor "factories" covered by bush foliage, barefoot UNITA machinists make their own rocket launchers and heat-seeking rockets, sometimes using castoff truck parts.

Military analysts say that from a range of under 1,524 metres, the weapons are almost certain to hit a relatively slow civilian plane.

UNITA also has scores of truck-mounted anti-aircraft guns of East-West origin, most of them, according to Col. Kasigu, captured from the government side. Angola claims most of these weapons are given to UNITA by white-ruled South Africa, which has collected them over the years in strikes against its neighbours. South Africa denies this.

Rebels bent on attacking airlines probably could get close enough to airports for relatively short-range weapons to be effective.

The country is largely bush, dotted by provincial cities. UNITA presence in two-thirds of the country — the south, southeast and north — makes road travel hazardous. The government is forced to rely on air transport to supply outlying centres.

It was never clear if TAAG restricted internal flights after the November attack.

Shooting down civilian airliners is nothing new in southern African conflicts. Black-nationalist guerrillas under Zimbabwean opposition leader Joshua Nkomo downed two Viscounts of the then Rhodesian national carrier.

Mr. Nkomo, too, dismissed public outrage by saying such strikes were all part of the war.

Thatcher faces query on aide's gay club arrest

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came under pressure Monday to issue a statement about the arrest of a top government aide in a male striptease club.

Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine's parliamentary aide, Keith Hampson, resigned at the weekend after newspaper inquiries about his arrest for an alleged indecent assault on a plainclothes policeman at the gay theatre in central London.

Questions from politicians and the press focussed on a reported gap of over a week between the incident and word reaching Mrs. Thatcher and Mr. Heseltine.

Opposition Labour Party Security Specialist Ted Leadbitter, who helped to unmask British traitor Anthony Blunt — a royal adviser who worked for Moscow — wrote to Mrs. Thatcher Sunday seeking an explanation of the delay and demanding tougher checks on ministerial aides.

Government officials insist there was no security risk. Mr. Hampson, as parliamentary private secretary to Mr. Heseltine, was said to have had no access to top-secret material, but the post is regarded as a key step towards a ministerial career.

The right-wing Daily Mail new-

spaper questioned whether Mr. Hampson would have resigned had the matter not been about to become public knowledge in the press.

In an editorial entitled "why the delay?", it said: "... The obvious implication is that either the police were dilatory or the Home Office (Interior Ministry) procrastinated in the hope that the embarrassment could be swept under the carpet."

"Answers, please. And this time any reticence for reasons of 'national security' won't wash."

Mr. Hampson, 40, was charged after his arrest on May 3, but was freed on bail pending reports to police lawyers. He resigned on Saturday, saying he wanted to avoid embarrassing the government and Mr. Heseltine.

He said: "This is because of personal problems resulting from one night a week or so ago when I was totally fed up and drank far too much."

Gay Theatre Manager Russell McLeod was quoted in newspapers Monday as saying Mr. Hampson was a regular visitor, along with some other unnamed members of parliament. He also accused police of a general practice of provoking his customers into offences.

Polish political prisoners refuse government offer

WARSAW (R) — Poland's 11 best-known political prisoners have failed to reach agreement on terms for their release in talks with mediators for the Communist authorities, sources close to the case said Sunday.

The prisoners, who include seven activists of the outlawed Solidarity Labour Movement and four members of the dissident Kor Group, had been in indirect contact with the government since Easter, the sources said.

They held a final meeting with the mediators Saturday but rejected the government's terms, believed to centre on a demand that they abstain from political activities once released, the sources said.

The 11 men, almost all of whom have been in prison since the imposition of martial law in December 1981 and the banning of Solidarity, are awaiting trial on charges of plotting to overthrow Communist rule.

Poland's powerful Roman Catholic Church has been at the forefront of efforts to secure their release, and the church primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, said in a sermon in the southern city of Krakow Saturday he hoped the efforts would bear fruit.

The government has never set a date for the trial of the 11. The Reagan administration has linked abandonment of the trial to the lifting of Western economic sanctions, chiefly a ban on government credits, imposed in retaliation for martial law.

Poland rejects this as unjustified interference in its internal affairs.

The sources said the failure of the talks was not connected with a secret visit to Warsaw at the end of April by a senior United Nations official, Emilio de Oliveira, who proposed that, as an initial step, the prisoners go into asylum abroad for at least six months.

A bit of Sphinx returning home

LONDON (AP) — A bit of the beard of the great Sphinx, which has lain in the British Museum for 166 years, is going back to Egypt as a "permanent loan," a report said Sunday. The weekly Observer called the loan agreement a "tactical manoeuvre to sidestep the 1963 British Museum act, which expressly forbids museum trustees from disposing of objects in their care."

Negotiations for the return of the 5,000-year-old, (0.6 metre) fragment dragged out over two years after Egypt formally asked for it back in February 1982. The museum said then that it was bound by act of parliament to retain everything in its world-famous collection. The fragment accounts for about one-tenth of the plated beard. It was given to the museum in 1818 by Giovanni Cavaglia, an Italian sea captain who said he found it at Giza where the fabulous Sphinx — a lion with a man's head — guards the Pyramids.